

# THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

## China Overland Trade Report.

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### CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c. ....	245
Leading Articles:—	
The Times on Spheres of Influence and the Open Door .....	246
The Trans-Siberian Railway and its Military Value .....	246
Native Views on the Future of the Philippines .....	246
Fever and Mount Davis Cemetery .....	247
Interchange of Officials between Great Britain and the Colonies .....	247
Reported Murder of the Emperor of China .....	248
Serious Fire at Shanghai .....	248
Anti-Foreign Riot Near Chungking .....	248
The Position at Manila .....	248
Supreme Court .....	250
Hongkong Sanitary Board .....	251
Nurses' Memorial Fund .....	252
The Kwangsi Rebellion .....	252
Interesting Ceremony at the Central Police Station .....	253
Post Office Prosecutions .....	253
The Weihaiwei Convention .....	253
The Royal Hongkong Golf Club .....	254
Douglas Steamship Co., Limited .....	254
Messrs. S. C. Farquhar & Co., Limited .....	254
The Punjom Mining Co., Limited .....	254
French and British Influence in Kwang-tung .....	255
Correspondence .....	255
Rebellion in Szechuen .....	256
The Forward Movement in China .....	256
Hongkong and Port News .....	257
Commercial .....	258
Shipping .....	259

### MARRIAGES.

On the 10th September, 1898, in St. John's Chapel, Shanghai, by the Rev. F. L. Hawks Pott, in the presence of U.S. Consul-General John Goodnow, the Rev. GOUVERNEUR FRANK MOSHER, to FANNY SOUTHARD STEWART, of Trenton, New Jersey, U.S.A.

On the 12th September, 1898, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. J. Ost, FRANCES MUDG, younger daughter of the late Barnes DALLAS, to LEWIS FRANCIS TAYLOR, Lieut. R.N.R., only son of the late R. F. Taylor, of Doncaster.

### ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The German mail of the 22nd August arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Darmstadt*, on the 21st September (30 days).

### EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

H.M.S. *Daphne* left Batavia for the Coco Islands on the 9th instant.

It is reported that the leader of the Kwangsi rebellion has been captured and executed, together with a number of his followers.

A nickel subsidiary coinage has been introduced in Siam, the coins representing twenty, ten, five, and two-and-a-half tical cents respectively.

News has been received by wire from Hankow that the Viceroy Chang, Chih-tung has authorised the establishment of a tea manufacturing company with Foreign and Chinese shareholders.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The first stone of the new British Consulate at Hoihow was laid on the 19th September by Mrs. O'Brien Butler, the wife of the Consul. A new building for the French Consulate is also in course of erection.

M. Doumer, Governor-General of Indo-China, leaves for France on the 28th September.

General Otis having presented an ultimatum to Aguinaldo requiring him to remove his troops from Manila, Aguinaldo complied, and on the 14th he marched his army off, with colours flying and bands playing, and producing an excellent effect.

According to the *Courrier de Saigon* of the 14th September Admiral de la Bonnière de Beaumont is seriously ill with chronic dysentery and his doctors have advised his immediate return to France. His Excellency was to leave by the next mail steamer.

The M. M. steamer *Eridan*, which arrived recently at Saigon from Manila, had on board as passengers about sixty Spaniards returning home. The greater number, the *Courrier de Saigon* says, were prominent merchants whose business has been seriously compromised by the war and who have wound up their affairs in the colony.

The *Sinwupai* publishes a special telegram from Peking to the effect that the Imperial consent has been given to the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung's scheme of sending, at once, fifty of his ablest and brightest young military officers to study their profession in Japan, and that the young officers will probably be sent to Tokyo at an early date.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A severe typhoon was experienced in Japan on the 8th September. A number of houses were swept away and two hundred and fifty deaths are said to have been caused by the storm. Some damage was done in Yokohama harbour; amongst other casualties the sailing ship *Lyndhurst* drifted foul of the Italian cruiser *Marco Polo*, inflicting damage upon her estimated at yen 18,000.

A propos of the anecdote about Dr. Grace being disposed of by a Public School team for a very small score, and the hymn for evening chapel containing the line "The scanty triumphs Grace hath won," an old Marlburian, who has a lively recollection of the incident, informs us that it was at Marlborough it occurred, and adds the following further reminiscences:—Overheard at the match when Grace played the School: Companion (who had been bowled)—"I could not see that blessed ball." Grace—"I could see the one that got me, but I could not stop it." At lectures a few days afterwards: Question—"Name the Three Graces of mythology." Small boy's answer—"W. G. Grace, — and —," naming the three Grace brothers.

Some 5,000 persons, consisting of clerks, scribes, supernumeraries, runners, and petty officials, have been thrown out of employment by the recent abolition at Peking of the six minor Boards or Courts, and many of them are said to have spent considerable sums of money in buying their posts, which thus became transferable to their descendants, a practice which has been current for some two thousand years in this country. As already stated in these columns, the chief officers and secretaries have been provided for by being turned over to the Board of Control of Railways and Mines, and Boards of Agriculture, Arts, and Commerce for employment; but it is the smaller fry who will suffer by the general disbandment.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The rebel chief Yu Shan-tsz is giving considerable trouble in Szechuen. He holds a French priest in captivity, as already reported, and recently he organised a riot at Hochow, near Chungking, in which the American Mission was looted and the Roman Catholic Mission destroyed.

In an interview at Calcutta, Mr. Allan Arthur, who has just returned from giving evidence before the Currency Committee, was asked to "sum up City opinion" on the whole Currency question. He said:—"There is a growing feeling in the city of London in favour of a gold standard for India, and indeed there would be little objection to it were India to gradually acquire a gold stock. The idea which is disliked in connection with introducing a gold standard is the proposal to borrow all at once a large quantity of gold, thus upsetting the money market.

Reports, regarded as credible, have been received from Shanghai to the effect that the Emperor of China has been murdered. There has been an uneasy feeling for some time past that grave events were impending in the Palace at Peking, and the news of the Emperor's murder, should it be confirmed, will cause little surprise to those who have watched the recent course of politics in China. The young Emperor had thrown in his lot with the reform movement, by which many interests were threatened, and which, if fully carried out, would have involved the retirement of the Empress-Dowager from direct participation in the Government. This old lady assumed the Regency yesterday, which lends confirmation to the reports of the Emperor's death. The Emperor Kwang-su was born in 1871 and succeeded to the throne, at the death of the Emperor Tung-Chi, on the 22nd January, 1875. He was married on the 26th February, 1889, but has no children, and the succession to the throne will in all probability cause much intrigue. The outcome may be the institution of some form of foreign control.

The *Times of Ceylon* makes the following reference to General Augustin and his family:—Amongst the passengers on the *Prinz Heinrich* were Augustin, the fugitive Governor-General of the Philippines, and his wife and children, all bound for their own country. Augustin only speaks Spanish, and an interview with him was, therefore, precluded, added to which he is very reticent on the subject of Manila affairs and his escape from Manila. He is a well-built man, just turning grey, but he looked very haggard while here, and, it is said, underwent experiences in Manila just before he left that were enough to turn his hair grey. His wife was in an even more parlous condition, however. As our readers know, she was captured by Aguinaldo's rebel troops, and held a prisoner till Manila surrendered, and she bore evidence of having gone through a very rough time. Her face and her body were covered with sores, due, she says, to having been imprisoned in cellars and dungeons, and she was wretchedly thin; while, to crown her misfortunes, when the *Prinz Heinrich* met a typhoon just after leaving Hongkong, she was thrown to the deck and broke one arm, which yesterday (30th August) she was carrying in splints. Her children were covered with boils and sores, and the whole family, in fact, looked very miserable.

# "THE TIMES" ON SPHERES OF INFLUENCE AND THE OPEN DOOR.

(Daily Press, 20th September.)

In the file of the *Times* received by the last mail we find two articles on the China question, both of which contain material errors. In its issue of the 16th August the great London organ says:—"Our traders are less exacting than those of other countries. They do not ask for preferential duties practically excluding other nations. All they expect of their Government is that it shall preserve at least some area of China in which they may trade without having to face preferential advantages bestowed upon some other nation. This modest demand has not been met by the British Government. It has professed its unalterable determination to secure equal opportunity for British traders everywhere in China, but it has not sufficiently considered what such a determination involves when other Powers with one consent take to carving out spheres of influence. The British trader now sees himself everywhere shut out from expansion by the dominance of an exclusive policy worked here by one Power and there by another." This is entirely contrary to fact. In no part of China is the British trader shut out by the exclusive policy of any other Power, nor, we hope, will the British Government ever allow the door to be closed in his face. In a note on the recent debate in the House of Commons the *Spectator* says:—"Mr. BAUFORD next turned to insist upon a distinction which exists between the importation of goods into China on terms of equal treatment and the question of concessions,—though it was apparently a distinction too fine for the House of Commons." Apparently the distinction is too fine also for the *Times*, as it is for many other people, but it is a very real distinction all the same and upon its due recognition depends the success of British policy in China. The open door for trade is a principle to be insisted upon at all costs; the open door for concessions is an impossibility, for the granting of a concession to one party necessarily means that a concession for the same thing cannot be granted to others.

In its issue of the 18th August the *Times* says:—"England cannot single-handed resist the policy of spheres of influence and particular concessions which, rightly or wrongly, all the other Powers insist upon pursuing. . . . But we stand alone, except for the sympathy of the United States, for the open door policy, and we cannot enforce it except under our own flag. To attempt to maintain it throughout so huge an empire as that of China, without any aid from the Chinese Government and in opposition to the policy of the other Powers, is simply to court failure and to arouse perfectly unnecessary hostility. Our affair is to secure for ourselves a fair share of the Chinese markets by means such as the public opinion of Europe sanctions." If this means that we are to abandon the policy of keeping the Chinese market as a whole open to the whole world, that we are to allow part of the market to be closed against ourselves while we in turn close part of it against others, the expression of such an opinion is to be regretted. Whatever mistakes the Government may have made in its management of the China question its action has been characterised by much more common sense than the counsels of many of its mentors in the press, the *Times* in

particular, which is now becoming almost as strong an advocate of the spheres of influence policy as it formerly was of the open door policy, apparently without any clear idea of what either term really means.

## THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY AND ITS MILITARY VALUE.

(Daily Press, 19th September.)

The *United Service Magazine* for August has an article by Colonel DE LA POER BERESFORD on the Trans-Siberian Railway. In a note on the article the *Spectator* says:—"People here talk glibly of the Trans-Siberian Railway being ready in four or five years, of Russia then being able to 'pour troops' into Manchuria, and generally as if the railway, when made, would make it as easy to move great bodies of men from St. Petersburg to Port Arthur as from London to Aberdeen. As a matter of fact, the unaccomplished engineering difficulties are very great, and when they are got over Russia will only have a single line, far more useful for carrying mail-bags than large armies. As the writer of the article, Colonel DE LA POER BERESFORD, very truly says: 'The civilian mind is, perhaps, somewhat inclined to run riot over the facilities for transport of troops which it [the Trans-Siberian line] will provide.' As he points out, though the Germans had the well-laid French lines at their disposition, the authorities in 1870 often found it more convenient to send troops by road. The truth is, there never was a greater bogey than the Trans-Siberian Railway. The notion that it would be wise to go to war with Russia 'while there is yet time,' and before this 'terrible instrument of war is completed, is utterly preposterous.' Judging from this it appears possible that Colonel DE LA POER's criticisms may be taken too literally and that the importance and military value of the line may be as much underrated as they have perhaps in some quarters been overrated. 'When it becomes a question of moving men 7,000 miles,' says Colonel DE LA POER BERESFORD, 'of entraining their waggons, guns, horses, baggage, and food, and transporting all these things, as well as the men, for these vast distances, the problem is not easy of solution.' No doubt the resources of the line would break down under a demand for the sudden removal of a large army from one of its termini to the other, but that is a demand that is not likely to be made upon it, and it is not in that direction that the importance of the line lies. It may still be found more convenient, even after the line is completed, to send reliefs and reinforcements to Eastern Siberia by sea in ordinary times, but if ever the strain of war is felt the Trans-Siberian Railway will prove of incalculable advantage to Russia as affording her an alternative route along which she can promptly send, if not enormous armies, at least reinforcements of special corps and of superior ranks. The line would be found of service, for instance, if in some military crisis in Siberia, it enabled the selected generals with their staffs to reach the point of operations in a fortnight instead of by the six weeks' sea route. Facility of communication must always be of enormous advantage in time of war, even although the means of transport are limited. We have heard local military critics express themselves in similar depreciatory terms of the Siberian Railway to those employed by the *Spectator*. Because the line cannot transport twenty thousand men from Moscow to Vladivostok with as little trouble

as that with which an English railway will run a summer excursion to the seaside it is assumed that its military potentialities may be ignored. Nothing could be more mistaken. Though the German authorities in 1870-71 sometimes found it more convenient to move troops by road than by rail, it is not to be assumed that the railways did not prove of value as a means of maintaining rapid communication between different points. Strategic value is attached to the Indian Railways and to the Canadian Pacific Railway, and it was the superior railway communications possessed by the North in the American Civil War that the Confederate leaders assigned as one of the principal causes of the Federal success. It may be well to point out, too, for the benefit of those who may be inclined too readily to jump at conclusions from reading brief summaries of the article under notice, that the author is speaking only of the immediate future. 'Of course,' he says, 'with time depôts with food, rest camps for use in summer, or even in winter, will be provided; but nothing of the sort has been estimated for in the first construction of the railway, and the money for the construction of the same does not, at present at all events, seem to be forthcoming.' When the line is completed we opine it will not be long before adequate supplies for an army in transport will be found all along the route. We cannot agree, therefore, with the *Spectator* in considering the Trans-Siberian Railway a military bogey, but we cordially endorse the remark that 'The notion that it would be wise to go to war with Russia 'while there is yet time' and before this 'terrible instrument of war is completed' is utterly preposterous.' The notion is preposterous, not because the Trans-Siberian Railway is not of military value, but because the results generally anticipated from such a war are not such as would justify it. It is said by the Jingoists that if we fought Russia now we might set her back for twenty years; no one seems to regard it as at all possible that we could permanently retard the development of Russia in Siberia and Manchuria. But what is twenty years in the life of a nation? If we are to fight let it be for some well defined and permanent advantage.

## NATIVE VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

(Daily Press, 17th September.)

Whether the fate of the Philippines will be decided without a conflict between the Americans and the Luzon Insurgents appears doubtful, the Insurgents having taken up a very independent position. From Manila we learn that President AGUINALDO has received an ultimatum from Major-General ORIS requiring the removal of the Insurgent troops to a certain distance from Manila. It is probable the ultimatum will be complied with, and that things may run smoothly for the time being pending the arrangement to be arrived at by the Paris Peace Commission, but should that arrangement not prove satisfactory to AGUINALDO and his following there will almost certainly be trouble. And that the arrangement will prove satisfactory is hardly to be expected. At the beginning the Insurgents were apparently prepared to welcome an American protectorate, but now that Spanish rule has disappeared their ideas have become more inflated, so much so that it now appears doubtful whether anything less than complete independence will satisfy them. In a recent issue of the *Indo-*

pendencia, the accredited organ of the Insurgent party, there appears an article which possesses some importance as indicating the policy that the Insurgents would be likely to follow if given a free hand. The article is headed "The principle of association" and its nominal object is to urge the importance of commercial combination for the development of the country's resources. But a cardinal principle, it would seem, is to be the imposition of restrictions upon foreign enterprise.

The article opens with the statement that the chains which held the Philippines from entering into the concert of modern life have been broken, "thanks to the courage of our patriots and the protection of America," and goes on to refer to the international scramble in the Far East and the covetousness with which the Philippines are regarded. "The perils that threaten us are political and economic. The political ones will be resolved by the pens of our leaders supported by our army. The economic ones are more serious, depending as they do on ingenuity and capital, and they can only be met by wise measures and the presenting of a united front by all our fellow citizens." Foreign nations, the article goes on to say, would encounter insurmountable difficulties if they tried to conquer the country by arms, but the gradual conquest by economic absorption will be easy if the citizens do not oppose it. A picture is then drawn of European and American capital pouring into the country, securing control of its agriculture, trade, and industries, and reducing the natives to the position of subsidiary employes and lessees. America seems to be held in special dread by the writer in this respect. He predicts that if no measures to the contrary are taken in a few years the richest and most influential section of the population will be the American, and that they will suppress all opposition under pretext of defending their interests. It is proposed, therefore, that no foreigner should be allowed to acquire landed property except in certain specified localities. The formation of banking, trading, and industrial companies is suggested as a means of bringing together native capital to oppose foreign capital. And, lastly, a protectionist policy is advocated, not extremely protectionist, but sufficiently so to cause the native product to be preferred to the foreign. AGUINALDO and his party would do well to disavow any such line of policy as that above indicated, for it will certainly be disallowed by the United States. It is to be feared, however, that in the intoxication of success wise counsels will not be listened to.

#### FEVERS AND THE MOUNT DAVIS CEMETERY.

(Daily Press, 21st September.)

When the Fever Commission sat in Hongkong ten years ago some discussion arose as to the term "typho-malarial." The fever prevalent at that time presented in some cases features not usually found in malarial fever, and the term above mentioned was coined to describe the variant type. In some quarters it was held that the term was nonsensical, as typhoid fever and malarial fever were distinct diseases between which there could be no connection. The Commissioners in their report made no pronouncement on this point, but found that the diseases complained of were chiefly malarial, that the fever epidemic at the time was distinctly so, and "that a small proportion of the cases that came before

"the Commissioners in evidence exhibited "symptoms of what may have been sewer-gas poisoning." In the opening address delivered by Sir CHARLES CAMERON, M.D., Medical Officer of Health for Dublin, at the recent congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health, we find that a possible connection between malaria and typhoid is directly recognised. Having mentioned the excessive prevalence of typhoid fever in Dublin, coupled with a low death rate from diphtheria, Sir CHARLES CAMERON went on to say:—"I have come to the conclusion that both diseases have, to a great extent, a telluric origin; they seem to be in some way intimately connected with the soil. . . . Why should there be so much enteric fever in Dublin? I have long been of opinion that the micro-organisms of this disease have an abiding place in its soils, which for so long a period were polluted by leakage from the filth receptacles and defective sewers of former times. I believe that, under certain conditions, these malignant organisms escape from the soil into the atmosphere, from which they pass through various media into the bodies of human beings." Assuming this opinion to be correct it would seem that one generation may lay up the seeds of disease in the soil, seeds which may bear fruit in the next generation, and that the sanitary sins of the father may be visited on his children and grandchildren. The cases which the Hongkong Fever Commissioners described as being due to sewer gas poisoning may after all have been telluric in their origin.

Sir CHARLES CAMERON refers more particularly to the pollution of the soil from the filth receptacles and defective sewers of former times. There is another cause of pollution of the soil which may be even more potent for evil. We refer to earth burial, especially when it is conducted under specially unfavourable conditions, as is the case at the Chinese cemetery at Mount Davis. On this subject the Fever Commissioners reported, under the heading of "Disposal of the dead" as follows:—"So involved is this question with custom and religion that the Commissioners can only suggest what is sanitary in contradistinction to what may at the same time be expedient. The present places of burial for Europeans, Chinese, and other residents, are gradually being encroached upon (some of the older graveyards are in fact already within the confines of the suburbs), and with the rapid spread of the city it seems likely that a serious sanitary question will in time arise. The effluvia complained of by some of the petitioners as arising from the Chinese cemetery on the Pokfulam Road is ascribed to the method adopted by the Chinese of laying the coffin in the ground. When the grave is dug according to present regulations, the end of the coffin, that towards the hill, is deep enough to be sanitary, but the end nearer the surface is so sparsely covered that the earth gets washed off by heavy rains and the coffin in a good many instances is exposed. Hence no doubt arises the effluvia complained of and the remedy at once suggests itself, namely, that when a hill side is chosen as a burial ground not only the end of the grave next the hill be made sufficiently deep, but that the coffin next the surface be amply covered." The latter recommendation is now, we believe, acted upon, but whatever precautions be observed Mount Davis must be recognised as a wholly unsuitable site for a

cemetery. The extension of the colony's boundaries will permit of one of the adjacent islands being utilised for burial purposes, and no time ought to be lost in closing at least the Mount Davis cemetery, if not also all the other cemeteries on the island of Hongkong. But though we may discontinue the errors of the past it is to be feared that their evil effects will continue for many years to come, assuming that the soil can retain infection in the manner described by Sir CHARLES CAMERON.

#### INTERCHANGE OF OFFICIALS BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE COLONIES.

(Daily Press, 22nd September.)

In his remarks on the occasion of the presentation of a souvenir to Mr. T. A. Howe by the Police the other day the Hon. F. H. MAY gave expression to an opinion which we think will secure general acceptance. "I like to think," said Mr. MAY, "and no doubt you all do, of the British Empire as one compact whole. I believe, if Her Majesty's Government were to pursue the policy which has been pursued in respect to Hongkong and sent out some of her best men to fill acting appointments in the colonies and give the colonial officials a chance to do the same at home, it would do a great deal to bind the Empire together." Mr. MAY appears to have had running in his mind some idea of Imperial federation, and the policy he suggests may be commendable on that ground alone, but it is chiefly from an immediately utilitarian point of view that it should command attention. The policy of appointing Cadets to be Heads of Departments without giving them any previous effective training in the duties they will be called upon to perform is attended with danger. In a colony like this, where the conditions are so different from what they are in England, it is wise to get out Cadets and give them a special training to qualify them for the discharge of the duties of the higher offices of the Government; but there are some of these offices for which a technical training is necessary and for which the Cadet system is unsuitable. No one would ever think, for instance, of appointing Cadets to the Public Works Department, the Medical Department, the Harbour Department, or the Observatory. There are other departments for which technical training, if not so essential as in the case of those just named, is of importance, and if Cadets are to be appointed to these it would be wise to give them a course at home before they take up their duties. There is the Police Department itself, for instance. It appears to be the unanimous opinion of the Force that it has derived considerable benefit from having had associated with it for twelve months an experienced officer of the Royal Irish Constabulary; and when it becomes necessary to appoint a successor to the Hon. F. H. MAY as Captain Superintendent the Cadet who may be selected would be all the better qualified for his work if he had the opportunity of serving for a year or two with one of the leading Police Forces of the United Kingdom. But a department in which special training appears to be even more necessary than in the Police Force is the Post Office. It would be an advantage, we think, if the head of that department were always appointed direct from St. Martin's-le-Grand, but, failing that, the Cadet who is to be appointed should be required to make himself acquainted with postal work by going through a course in

the London office, and from time to time officers might with advantage be brought out from home to fill acting appointments, as recommended by Mr. MAY. Thus the Hongkong Post Office would be kept in touch with the modern developments of postal business and there would be a saving of the time and labour now lost by officers having to learn everything for themselves, or trying to learn it, perhaps ineffectually, for years. The self-taught man is as a rule an estimable individual, but he will be the first to acknowledge the advantages of a good school. Trained Postmasters would be better for Hongkong than self-taught ones, especially during the time the latter are gaining their experience. The Cadet system is no doubt a very good thing in its way, but a course of the Chinese classics will not help a man much in the acquisition of those business habits and attention to detail that are so necessary for the successful conduct of a Post Office.

## REPORTED MURDER OF THE EMPEROR OF CHINA.

### THE EMPRESS DOWAGER AGAIN IN POWER.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAMS TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SHANGHAI, 22nd September.

An Imperial Decree has been issued to-day by which the Empress Dowager is associated with the Emperor in the Government.

SHANGHAI, 23rd September.

Fairly credible reports are in circulation that the Emperor has been murdered.

It is certain that the Empress Dowager assumes the Regency to-day.

The following appeared in the *N. C. Daily News* of the 13th September:—Fears have been expressed by those who know the ways of Peking and of Oriental Courts generally, that the young Emperor has been going too fast for the comfort of the old officials at the capital, and for his own safety. It is possible that the Empress Dowager has been merely giving him rope, and already ominous rumours have come down from Peking that he is seriously ill. It is reported that there is a posthumous son of the late Emperor Tung Chi at the palace, ready, if called upon, to ascend the Dragon Throne, but we trust that there is no real foundation for these rumours.

## SERIOUS FIRE AT SHANGHAI.

### THE CHINA MERCHANTS' GODOWN BURNT.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Shanghai, 18th September.

The China Merchants Godown at Kinleeyuen was burnt last night.

The loss is heavy.

## ANTI-FOREIGN RIOT NEAR CHUNGKING.

### PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC MISSIONS DESTROYED.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Shanghai, 18th September.

The rebel chief Yu Man-tze organised a riot at Hochow, near Chungking.

The American Mission was looted and the Roman Catholic Mission destroyed.

There were no personal injuries.

The American barque *W. H. Conner*, which arrived at Shanghai on the 13th September from New York, when about 70 miles north of Formosa, on the 24th August, experienced a typhoon of great severity, in which she lost her jib-boom, fore-topmast, and main top-gallant-mast. The starboard bulwarks were badly damaged and 40 feet of the main rail washed away; the steering gear was also badly damaged. The ship had about three feet of water in the hold, but this all obtained access from the deck, there being no leak below.—*N. C. Daily News*.

## THE POSITION AT MANILA.

### THE AMERICAN ULTIMATUM TO AGUINALDO.

#### TRADE PROSPECTS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila 13th September.

If anyone thinks for a moment that the troubles in Manila are over, he is labouring under great error. If anyone assumes that the future is only fraught with routine problems to be solved and difficulties to be removed that might arise under ordinary conditions, he is drawing conclusions not in harmony with the situation. In fact it now looks as if the most interesting and at the same time the most complicated events are to follow. What is passed may be only child's play with what is to come. Of course we hope not, but unfortunately hope does not control the attitude of either Americans or natives. We are all on the *qui vive* as to what this week may bring forth. Thursday or Friday may witness the passing of a crisis which is the most important since the fall of Manila one month ago to-day.

President Emilio Aguinaldo of the independent Philippine Republic has received and is carefully considering an ultimatum from Major-General Otis, Military Governor of Manila and Commander-in-Chief of the American Forces. This ultimatum has been expected for some time by those who understood the inside of the local relations of Americans and insurgents. It is an absolutely necessary result of conditions. To think that 15,000 energetic American soldiers scattered all over and around Manila in detachments here and there can avoid collisions with an entirely separate force of armed men under other authority and command who have camps and headquarters alongside those of the Americans, is indeed foolish. Such collision is, in brief, unavoidable. Were the insurgents some other nationality than Philipinos the same result would follow. Two forces under different commands not understanding each other's movements, suspicious to a degree one of the other, even though they may be inspired by a common desire to rid the Islands of Spanish rule, cannot be stationed side by side without petty difficulties arising which may easily develop into serious complications.

The ultimatum therefore requires Aguinaldo to withdraw all his armed men from Manila by Thursday afternoon of this week. They must retire beyond all the defences of the city and leave the town and its suburbs clear for American occupation. The day set is Thursday, but if Aguinaldo acquiesces more time will be allowed him. He must answer the ultimatum not later than Thursday, the 15th. This is a most important step, and upon it much depends. If Aguinaldo refuses to accept the conditions, war with him may follow. If he agrees to comply with the American demands, which is quite probable, the chances of actual warfare between the Americans and insurgents will be materially lessened. Immediate causes of friction and ill feeling will be removed and the work of diplomacy in settling matters will be untrammelled by the repetition of unfortunate incidents requiring explanations and investigations.

While every American here is anxious to avoid trouble with the insurgents and at heart sympathises with them in their opposition to Spanish rule, the United States have decided to pursue a firmer policy in Manila than during the last 30 days. There is to be, hence, a considerable change in the *status quo*. Arrangements are all complete, so that if the insurgents resist, the American forces can be successfully deployed against them. Most of the officers have been familiarizing themselves with the conformation of the land about Manila and suburbs until they know where every bamboo thicket and rice field dyke is located. The old Indian fighters in the American army are teaching the "young uns" and volunteers a few "tricks" in guerilla warfare which will be useful in case of fighting. Co-operating with the land forces will be a mosquito fleet of forty or fifty small boats or launches equipped with Hotchkiss and other rapid firing guns which can patrol the rivers, lakes, and bay shores, and do destructive work if required. A large body of additional troops including the famous 6th

Cavalry, of Indian fame, have been brought over from Cavite, and the outposts everywhere have been doubled with reference to quick and decisive action. Fully 16,000 men can be used against the natives if they provoke an attack.

Aguinaldo has removed his capital to Malolos, eight stations up the Dagupan railway from Manila and 1½ hours' ride by train, with all the pomp and glory of a mighty, victorious leader in Europe or America. He travelled in a special train attended by his staff, cabinet, and a body guard of soldiers, all dressed with faultless care in neat uniforms and armed with the best swords or rifles. When the President alighted from the train he was greeted by loud cheers often repeated and by the music of a well trained band. A regiment of soldiers were drawn up to salute him and presented a creditable appearance. The streets were thronged with people in holiday attire and everybody was smiling or shouting. Decorations covered many buildings and the Philippine flag was flying proudly to the breeze over the houses used for government purposes. A grand dinner was held at which numerous speeches were made, all lauding Aguinaldo, telling him what a great man he was, and picturing a brilliant future for the Philippine Republic—with very few references to the United States! Aguinaldo is not a speech maker, but he replied in a quiet, modest way that was impressive if not showy. He was dressed in a regulation khaki uniform with white helmet, shoulder straps, sword, and gaiters that gave him a very trim look.

At Malolos he controls the railway, can retreat by it if he wishes, and is in touch with the whole northern section of the island.

Last night at Calvarcan a grand ball was given by the natives under the management of the insurgent army officers, which was very successful. It was in honour of the Philippine army, and many of the more prominent Philipinos were present. Aguinaldo was expected, but at the last moment was prevented from coming. Some Americans were invited and greatly enjoyed the evening. They were certainly shown every kindness possible by the insurgent chiefs, as were a number of Englishmen also invited. In the morning a special mass was celebrated for the repose of dead Philipinos, Americans, and Spaniards, killed during the war. It was an impressive service and the Cathedral was crowded. Thus the day began with chanting and prayers and ended with dancing and gaiety. Everywhere I go and meet the natives, I cannot help being favourably influenced by their hospitality and politeness. Although at first they often look with suspicion on a stranger of foreign blood, they uniformly treat one with marked consideration when he himself makes any kindly advances towards them, asks questions, or goes about among them taking photographs or notes. When a person remarks that he is an American or Englishman and acts as if his intentions are honest, he meets only with amiability on the part of the natives. Tact and good judgment can win much from them.

Cavite has been evacuated by the insurgents with little or no trouble. It was feared at first that there might be some difficulty in the matter, but it was accomplished peaceably. The insurgents marched out without a murmur, surrendered their position as guard of the great San Roque gate, and allowed the Americans to take full possession. It would have been much better if this arrangement had been made before, thus avoiding the recent shooting over there, but there should be no more conflicts except in actual warfare in the future. Cavite is very easy to protect with a small force, so that the Americans are now withdrawing a good portion of the troops which were there to Manila, where the water and food supplies are better and they will be in readiness for any emergency.

The general situation in Manila is little changed. While we are all in doubt about the future, business is being conducted largely as if no war had been fought. The bulk of both imports and exports is even larger than was anticipated. Many difficulties are experienced in the Custom House and delays are frequent, but on the whole matters are attended to with despatch. Although a New York and Boston Society warrior is at the head of the Custom House, he is making fair progress in his labours. The only criticism I have heard of him is his "patron-

ising" manner, due perhaps to long experience at Bar Harbour and Newport (not as a Collector of Customs but as a leader of Cotillions), which some British merchants and Americans do not wholly comprehend, but do not mind beyond being amused at the gentleman's peculiarities.

I would advise the merchants of Hongkong, Singapore, and Shanghai to keep in close touch with Manila. It has a great future as a trade centre before it if it does not return to Spanish control. The knowledge of a practical kind, in the above ports, of Manila and the Philippines is woefully limited and it would be beneficial to trade upbuilding if the merchants interested in the import and export possibilities of the Islands would visit Manila. I simply throw this out as a little suggestion based on observation.

A few days ago an insurgent officer was stabbed on the Luneta by a Spanish soldier assisted by three others. The assailants were promptly arrested and will be duly tried and punished. The insurgent was walking along the beach when he became mixed in an altercation with these Spanish soldiers. Hot words were exchanged, ending in one Spaniard drawing a knife and fatally cutting the native. There was considerable excitement for the moment, but quiet soon followed. It was one of those incidents which are hard to prevent under existing conditions, but which, fortunately, are very limited in number.

All kinds of rumours have been current from day to day of fighting between Americans and insurgents, but they always lack confirmation. Several men are reported killed and then it is found that the report is invariably a canard. There have been disputes while extending the American lines, but no fighting.

The *Newport* leaves to-day for the United States with important reports for the Government.

#### A CRISIS.

##### THE PRIESTS AND THEIR RUMoured DESIGNS.

Hongkong, 17th September.

Despatches received from Manila yesterday disclosed the fact that the past week has been an exceedingly anxious time in the city, the relations between the Americans having become so strained that no one would have been surprised had a collision taken place at any moment. The climax was reached when Aguinaldo, acting on the suggestion of his sub-chiefs, sent a letter to the American authorities demanding "half the booty of the city," seeing that he and his followers had not been allowed to take it.

In reply General Otis said he knew nothing about any booty, adding, "If your forces are not removed from the suburbs of Manila by Thursday, September 15th, we shall remove them by force. Admiral Dewey agrees perfectly with this, and our forces will act in accord and in perfect harmony." Every preparation was made by the Americans to enforce their threat. Their ships were lined along the shore front, and the land forces had been so drawn out by General Otis that one of the posts came right up to one of the insurgents. This the latter did not like, and the officer in command in a bouncing manner sent a communication to the Americans ordering them to clear out of the way within 20 minutes. Of course the order was ridiculed. The Americans at once prepared for the threatened attack, but it never came, the insurgents thinking better of it and going away themselves.

Up to yesterday Consul-General Wildman had had no wire from Manila, and as it is more than probable he would have had one had the Americans and Insurgents come to blows it looks as if Aguinaldo has agreed to the conditions laid down in the ultimatum.

The action of some priests in Hongkong who came over from Manila is looked upon with suspicion. Many of them have begun to wear civilian dress and to let their hair grow, and it is believed they are doing this in order that they may creep into Manila again and stir up strife among the natives there and in the country. It is known that a large quantity of arms are stowed away in the convents, and it is believed that it is intended to distribute them among the lawless characters who abound

throughout the Isle of Luzon with the object of making the place too hot for the Americans.

Should the United States retain Luzon the disposal of the land belonging to the church there will give rise to some discussion. By the law of the United States no ecclesiastical corporation is allowed to hold more than a certain amount of property, so that in the ordinary course of things the church land in Manila will be confiscated. We hear, however, that endeavours are being made to lease it to an English company which is being formed in Hongkong for the purpose, the prospectus of the company having been already prepared.

#### AGUINALDO'S WITHDRAWAL.

##### MEETING OF THE FILIPPINO CONGRESS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 16th September.

Aguinaldo has scored. He has evacuated his positions in Manila in a most creditable manner. His soldiers marched out with colours flying, bands playing, and the men cheering one moment the Americans and the next the Filipinos. Everybody is praising his discretion. He seized the opportunity to make a display and did it well. He made the very impression on the native population that he planned: that the removal of his troops was of his own volition and that he had made such arrangements with the Americans that it was no longer necessary to retain his forces within the city limits. As I indicated in my last letter, Aguinaldo complied gracefully with the ultimatum of General Otis. The time was up yesterday, Thursday, the 15th, but the rebel forces were withdrawn Wednesday evening just before dark.

This is the most important event that has happened since the Americans entered Manila and it occurred almost a month from the date of such entry. On Wednesday morning all sorts of rumours were rife as to what might happen. There were many men, Englishmen and Americans included, who believed that a fight was imminent and that the rebels would not leave unless compelled by bullets and bayonets. Those, however, in full touch with the situation had few fears of serious trouble. All day there was great activity in the rebel barracks, while officers were seen hurrying here and there over the city. These movements aroused the Americans to watchfulness to prevent any kind of a surprise, but none of the higher officers expected that any further precautionary steps would be necessary. Aguinaldo showed his kindly acceptance of Otis' demands by leaving Manila 24 hours ahead of time. He could have waited until Thursday afternoon or even until Friday morning, the 16th, had he expressed a wish for more time, but without quibble or question he ordered his faithful followers to show to the Americans that he at least was not following a "Manana" policy.

By two o'clock in the afternoon of the 14th it became generally known that the rebels would probably march out with some style and show. Hence when late in the afternoon the troops began to move from the buildings occupied by them and form into line large crowds of people, especially natives, with a sprinkling of foreigners, had collected at various points of vantage to see them march by. Those who watched were not disappointed. They moved out on both the north and south sides of the city at about the same hour. On the south side, i.e., south of the Pasig, where I saw them, fully 2,000 men were in line under arms. They marched down across the large open area that borders on the Luneta and thence along the Calle Real through Ermita and Malate out towards Paranaque. Three very good bands provided the necessary music, numerous flags, some of which were silken, gave colour to the scene, officers on horseback neatly uniformed and erect furnished military dignity and effect, while the rank and file of natives, most of them trudging along under heavy weights and often carrying two rifles, one old and one new, wearing broad brimmed straw hats turned up in front, barefooted and marching in any step that suited them, yet ever smiling and seemingly happy, made the whole scene so picturesque and odd that the memory of it will not soon pass away. Viewed

fairly and not too critically, the impression created was certainly favourable. They marched in column of fours and kept their distance and line better than would ordinarily have been expected of natives who had been under arms and drilled for only a few weeks. As they passed along the street, they would cheer, led by their officers, first Americans and then Filipinos. This was a thoughtful and politic act on the part of the natives. It prevented ill feeling and had the effect of most friendly relations. The American soliders cheered back heartily and in several places, where drawn up for evening dress parade, saluted the insurgents as they marched through the American lines and greeted them with loud and enthusiastic cheers. There was no sign of any friction. In one or two instances when the rebels were collecting and forming, there was some misunderstanding between them and the American sentries about the former passing armed through certain sections of the city, but these difficulties were not long in being straitened out, so that all was peace and harmony at the hour of evacuation. The Spaniards were doubtless disappointed that the Americans had no fighting with the rebels, but all other foreigners as well as the Americans and natives were delighted at the happy conclusion of the day's incidents.

As the situation now stands the Americans are in complete possession of the entire city of Manila and suburbs. The insurgents have marched out to such distances that there should be no repetitions of the petty difficulties that have repeatedly arisen during the past thirty days.

Following this evacuation by the insurgent forces of their positions in Manila is another event of no little importance and possibly of far greater consequence. Yesterday, Thursday, September 15, the Filipino congress met and organized at Malolos under favourable auspices and in a decidedly successful manner. It had been called together by proclamation of President Aguinaldo and delegates came from all parts of Luzon and some of the other islands. Fully one hundred accredited representatives were present. The assembly was presided over by the President, who opened the proceedings with a modest brief address. A large number of Americans and Britishers went to Malolos to witness the convening of the congress. Among these was Consul Williams, who speaks highly of the dignity and ability of the men forming it. It is only frank and fair to admit that everybody was agreeably surprised at the appearance, self possession, refined manner, and orderly demeanour that characterized the delegates. They behaved in the most up-to-date way. They conducted themselves and their proceedings as if they were veteran members of the British House of Commons or of the United States Senate. In short the impression created was excellent.

Of course Malolos was gay. It was in holiday attire as it has been every day since Aguinaldo arrived. The residents were all happy, first, because their town was selected as the capital, and, second, because so much money was being brought to the place by natives and foreigners who came from Manila and other points. The congress will probably remain in session some days. All Americans and Britishers who visit Malolos are shown marked kindness by the insurgent leaders and by the common people. Suspicion may be present but it is not offensive. I should not forget to call attention to the fact that the congress was made up of men from different professions. Only a portion of them were soldiers or of the fighting class. There were many doctors, some lawyers, men of large landed estates, teachers, and merchants. All were well dressed in stylish European clothes—stylish for the Islands, hardly for Piccadilly and Broadway. Committees were appointed for this and that purpose, at the head of which were placed men who were specially suited for the work in hand. While among these men there is a strong feeling that they can run an independent government, there is every reason to believe that the ablest and most influential natives, including Aguinaldo himself, realize that such government would be hopeless unless under the protection of the United States. I would not be surprised if the deliberations of this congress should include a petition to the American President to establish a protectorate,

From the present outlook everything should remain quiet in the relations of the Americans and insurgents until we hear the result of the Paris Peace Commission's meeting. The only intercourse will be of an informal diplomatic nature. If the Spaniards are allowed to reoccupy these islands the natives will fight to the last and nobody will blame them. As between Spanish and native rule I am inclined to think that the latter might be preferable to the former provided only some friendly power would protect the islands from being swooped down upon and seized by Germany or some nation that would take the first opportunity to do so.

The United States forces have now been organised by new arrangements as required by promotion of commanding officers and the arrival of recent reinforcements. The entire body forms the Eighth Army Corps under command of Major-General Otis. It is separated into two divisions, respectively commanded by Major-General T. M. Anderson and Major-General Arthur MacArthur. The first division is made up of one brigade commanded by Brigadier-General Harrison G. Otis, U. S. Volunteers, and consisting of three battalions of the 1st Montana Volunteer Infantry; three battalions, 1st South Dakota Volunteer Infantry; detachment Batteries A and D California Volunteer Heavy Artillery, Light Battery G 6th U. S. Artillery regulars; six troops, 4th U. S. Cavalry regulars.

The second division under General MacArthur consists of two brigades. The first is commanded by Brigadier General Samuel Owenshine, U. S. Volunteers, and consists of: three battalions 14th U. S. Infantry regulars; 1st California Volunteer Infantry of three battalions; two battalions 1st North Dakota Volunteer Infantry; two battalions 1st Idaho Volunteer Infantry; one battalion 1st Wyoming Volunteer Infantry; Light Battery D 6th U. S. Artillery regulars; Astor Battery. The second brigade is commanded by Brigadier-General Irving Hale and consists of: two battalions 3rd U. S. Artillery regulars; two battalions 18th U. S. Infantry regulars; three battalions 1st Colorado Volunteer Infantry; three battalions 1st Nebraska Volunteer Infantry; two battalions 10th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry; battalion, Utah Light Artillery, U. S. Volunteers, two batteries.

Aside from the above, the following regiments constitute the Provost Guard of the city of Manila under command of Brigadier General R. P. Hughes, U. S. Volunteers, Provost Marshal General: 23rd U. S. Infantry, regulars; 2nd Oregon Volunteer Infantry; and 13th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. The Engineers, Company A, battalion of Engineers, U. S. Army, are attached to the second division of the corps and report to General MacArthur.

The total American land force now in the Philippines is over 15,000 men. Aside from these are over 2,000 on the vessels of Admiral Dewey's fleet. There is some typhoid fever but in view of all the conditions the health of the men is excellent.

#### AGUINALDO GIVES WAY.

Hongkong, 20th September.

The United States gunboat *Petrel*, which arrived from Manila yesterday, reports that Aguinaldo has complied with the ultimatum of General Otis and that collision with the Americans and the insurgents has thus been avoided. One of the insurgent chiefs, however, stationed at Pasay declined to remove his troops at the time that Aguinaldo removed his, and Aguinaldo, knowing what would be the outcome of his officer's stubbornness, asked General Otis for three or four days' grace so that he might commune with the man and endeavour to get him to listen to reason. Apparently there is some prospect of the differences between the Americans and the natives being satisfactorily arranged, for a correspondent at Manila writes: "The natives are very friendly towards the Americans, and simply delighted with the prospect of becoming Americanos. Vessels which a few weeks ago flew the insurgent flag are now adorned with the Stars and Stripes." Apparently, however, the American soldiers in Manila are heartily sick of the place, and would be only too glad to hear that they had been ordered to return home.

#### AGUINALDO'S DISINTERESTEDNESS.

##### THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT.

On unimpeachable authority, direct from a high Filipino source, the *Singapore Free Press* is enabled to give details of an incident important in its possible future bearing on the question of the internal administration of the Philippines.

General Emilio Aguinaldo quite recently commissioned a prominent and capable Filipino, the head of one of the most important provinces, to have an interview with Don Cayetano Arellano, the celebrated Philippine lawyer, who is legal adviser to the Spanish government in the Philippines, as well as to most of the leading commercial firms in Manila, in particular to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. This gentleman, although a Filipino native from the Province of Batan, holds the very highest rank in legal circles in Manila, and is especially looked upon, on account of his eloquence and forensic ability, as one of the leading lights of the Spanish bar in the Philippines.

The mission of Aguinaldo's emissary was to invite Don Cayetano Arellano, on behalf of the Revolutionary Government, to accept the position of President of the Philippine Government.

Don Cayetano, on the matter being submitted to him, acknowledged the high compliment thus paid to him, but stated that he felt impelled to refuse this flattering offer, on the ground that the man at present required by the nature of the situation must necessarily be a military leader; and he declared that none better than Aguinaldo could fulfil this condition, as to him was due the liberation of the country.

Again being urged to reconsider this decision, Don Cayetano Arellano finally yielded so far as to say that, before committing himself to a definite statement at that moment, he would advise that the question should be allowed to stand over pending the result of the deliberations of the Paris Peace Conference. Should that result have as one of its elements the granting of a sanction to the Filipino people to peacefully regulate their own affairs, his services would, in that case be held at the disposal of the nation.

It is important to add, at this juncture, that General Wesley S. Merritt, the American Military Governor, also subsequently sent for Señor Arellano, and had a long private conference with that eminent Filipino gentleman.

It is very possible that that interview may have some direct influence on the nature of the views to be laid by General Merritt before his colleagues of the Conference at Paris.

#### SUPREME COURT.

September 19th.

##### CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

##### BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

##### A DILATORY JUROR.

Mr. F. P. de Soares, who had been summoned as a juror was not in court when his name was called. On his arrival

His Lordship said—Your name was called as a juror and you were not in attendance.

Mr. Soares—I just finished my work at the office.

His Lordship—You were summoned for ten o'clock. Why were you not here? I cannot excuse you. You must remain in attendance during this sitting, and I will see what I will do at two o'clock.

##### A WOMAN CHARGED WITH MANSLAUGHTER.

A woman named Mak Oi Sik was charged with the manslaughter of another woman named Chon Yun Sing.

The jury was composed of Messrs. R. Aitken, H. Hyndman, Man Chenk Hing, E. A. da Silva, M. Mohita, B. F. S. Remedios, and D. M. Langrana.

The Acting Attorney-General (Mr. Pollock), instructed by the Crown Solicitor (Mr. H. L. Dennys), appeared for the prosecution.

Prisoner pleaded not guilty.

The Acting Attorney-General said the prisoner in this case was charged with unlawfully killing a woman called Chon Yun Sing. The bad blood between the parties which led to the killing of this unfortunate woman seemed to have originated through a small boy, about three years old, the son of a concubine, or secondary wife, of an earth coolie. Deceased was the mother of the concubine and prisoner was the first wife of the earth coolie. The quarrel which unfortunately led to the death of this woman seemed to have originated through prisoner being jealous of the concubine. Prisoner had no small boy of her own and was jealous of the concubine in consequence. However, for some time after this boy was born things seemed to have gone on smoothly in the family, for they found that for a period of about two years, terminating about the third of June of this year, the husband and the prisoner and the concubine and her mother, and also the husband's mother were all living in a house at No. 3, Third Street. But about the third of June, this year, this harmony seemed to have come to an end. Prisoner seemed to have had some quarrel with the concubine over this little boy, the result of that quarrel being that the husband set the concubine and her mother up in a separate establishment in Kwong Fung Lane, he and prisoner and his mother remaining at 3, Third Street. After the split up the husband's mother seemed to have been in the habit of fetching the boy from Kwong Fung Lane and taking him to Third Street, returning with him in the evening. That arrangement went on smoothly until the fifth of September. On that day, for some reason or other, the husband's mother did not go for the little boy until late in the day. When the concubine got home she was told that the boy had been taken away, so she asked her mother to fetch him back. The mother went, the concubine subsequently following her to Third Street. The evidence was that deceased went up to the first floor and told prisoner she wanted to take back the little boy. Prisoner replied, "Go away; this is not your child. I do not want you." Deceased said, "If we go away we must have the child." Prisoner, getting enraged, then seized a piece of firewood and struck deceased several blows with it. Deceased subsequently fell down stairs and lay stunned at the bottom. The concubine at once rushed out of the house and went for the police. The injured woman was removed to the hospital, where she subsequently died. With regard to the medical evidence Dr. Bell would tell the jury that on the evening in question deceased was admitted to the hospital suffering from a wound on the right side of her head, and that she subsequently died from hemorrhage on the brain as the result of the injury. He would also say that the injuries might have been caused by a blow or blows with a piece of firewood. The doctor did not consider it very likely that they were caused by the fall downstairs. At the police station prisoner said the concubine pulled deceased downstairs—that she fell downstairs and was stunned.

E. M. Hazeland, assistant engineer in the Public Works Department, produced a plan of the room at No. 3, Third Street.

The concubine, who appeared with her boy strapped to her back, said that on June 3rd prisoner claimed the boy as her own and then tried to turn witness away from the house. On account of this quarrel the husband took a room in Kwong Fung Lane, and she and her mother and boy occupied it; prisoner and the husband and his mother remaining at No. 3, Third Street. She and her mother, and also prisoner, worked as earth coolies, and each day her mother-in-law fetched the boy at seven or eight o'clock in the morning and brought him back at about five o'clock at night. On the fifth September, at about half-past five at night her mother-in-law came for the child when she was out. On her arrival at home at about half-past six she sent her mother to Third Street for the child, and shortly after she went too. She pushed open the door of prisoner's room, a cubicle near the head of the stairs. Then she saw her boy asleep on the bed. She told prisoner she wanted to take the boy back to her room, and prisoner replied, "No, no; you cannot do that, as the child is mine," and told her to go away. Then witness's mother said, "If you want me to leave this house I must take away the child with me."

Prisoner then said, "I'll beat you, you old woman." She then ran into the kitchen and came back with a piece of firewood in the right hand and a chopper in the left hand. The firewood was about three feet long and there was a knot at one end. There was a light coming in from outside through the window, but the lamp at the top of the stairs was not lighted. When prisoner came out of the kitchen with the chopper and the firewood deceased was standing close to the landing of the staircase. The boy was still lying on the bed in the cubicle. She did not see any wound inflicted either with the chopper or the firewood. She only saw blood coming from her mother's head. Immediately afterwards her mother rolled downstairs.

The mother of the husband having given evidence,

Dr. Carter Bell, assistant superintendent at the Government Civil Hospital, said deceased was admitted to the hospital at about a quarter to 11 on the night of the 5th inst. She had a scalp wound on the right side of the head an inch and a half long and going down to the bone. It was a clean cut. The hemorrhage had stopped. The woman had also a bruise on the centre of the head. On the 7th she got worse, and died on the ninth inst. He subsequently made a post mortem examination. On the right side of the head was the scalp wound he had already described. There was an effusion of blood over the right upper eye-lid. This would be caused by hemorrhage on the surface of the brain, and this was the cause of death. This blood on the surface of the brain was caused by the scalp wound. The wound might have been caused by a piece of firewood. It was possible it might have been caused by a fall downstairs, but he should say the firewood would be much more likely to have caused it.

Sergeant Scott said that at about half-past nine on the evening of the 5th inst. he was on duty at No. 7 Police Station when the concubine came to the Police Station, and in consequence of what she said, he accompanied her to Third Street, taking two lunks with him. From here they went to Hwong Fung lane, where they found deceased in a dazed condition with a wound on the right side of her head. He subsequently sent her to the hospital.

Wong Fung Wi, interpreter at No. 7 Police Station, said that when brought into the Police Station, prisoner said, "I did not strike her; her daughter pushed her downstairs."

Prisoner, when asked if she had anything to say, said—My mother-in-law used to go to the house in Kwong Fung Lane to take her meals. On the fifth September, at about three o'clock in the afternoon, my mother-in-law went to this house as usual to take her meals. The concubine and the boy were not at home just then, but she got home before my mother-in-law left with the child at about five o'clock. Shortly afterwards deceased and the boy's mother came to Third Street. The mother was under the influence of drink and created a disturbance in the house. She wanted to know where the child was. I replied, "The boy is asleep; let him sleep here." Deceased said, "No, I must take the boy." I said, "It makes no difference whether the boy sleeps in my place or in yours." She said she intended to take away the boy. I said, "You cannot take away the boy. The boy is the son of my husband." Deceased persisted in taking the boy away, and pushed me. I pushed her back. Then deceased took up a piece of firewood and struck me with it. The concubine tried to get her mother away and the mother fell downstairs herself.

His Lordship having summed up,

The jury retired to consider their verdict. On their return, after an absence of about ten minutes, Mr. Aitken (the foreman) said they found prisoner guilty of the offence of manslaughter, adding as a rider, "We think she did not do it willingly but in the heat of the moment, and we recommend that prisoner be dealt with as leniently as possible."

His Lordship said he gave full effect to the recommendation of the jury that prisoner should be leniently dealt with, as he believed she struck deceased in the heat of the moment. However, the least sentence he could pass upon her was one of 12 months' hard labour.

20th September.

### IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. JUSTICE WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

LEUNG FUK V. HUNG AN SHI AND WONG YUK SHUI.

In this case Mr. Hastings appeared for plaintiff and Mr. Grist for second defendant. First defendant had not been served. The claim was for \$600, damages occasioned by a collision between plaintiff's cargo boat and defendants' steam launch *Kam Kai* in the harbour on the 17th August. Defendant had paid into court \$320, but objected to judgment.

His Lordship said he could not give judgment for \$320, adding that judgment could be entered for plaintiff against second defendant with costs from the date second defendant was made a party in the suit, and the amount of damages could be referred to the Registrar.

Mr. Hastings said he could not accept that.

His Lordship—You cannot accept anything else.

Mr. Hastings submitted that the wrong-doer was the launch belonging to defendant, and the principal expense was that occasioned by the detention of the launch, which it was believed purposed going to Amoy out of British territory. Second defendant came down from Amoy after the seizure and instructed Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist to act for him. He (Mr. Hastings) asked for costs from the beginning, because whether it was necessary for defendant to appear or not it was for plaintiff.

His Lordship asked Mr. Grist what were the items he objected to.

Mr. Grist said that in one case instead of \$268 the amount should be \$68.28, which was a very considerable reduction. It was so all the way through. Every single item would have to be gone into, and there would be a great deal of evidence called.

His Lordship—I cannot take it now.

Mr. Grist said that in regard to the question of costs if it had been an Admiralty suit it would have been a different thing. The action would have been against the wrong-doer, which was the launch. But there was no action against the launch. It was impossible for a man to get judgment for costs incurred previous to the other man being made defendant. Had he been made defendant at once it would not have been necessary to have incurred the expense, as he would have found security at once, and the launch would have been released. It would be unjust to make second defendant pay costs incurred prior to the time he was made defendant.

His Lordship—The best plan will be to give judgment against you, reserving the question of costs until I get the report of the Registrar as to the damages.

### HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

On Thursday afternoon a meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held under the chairmanship of the Vice-President (Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police), there being also present: Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. J. Dyer Ball (Acting Registrar-General), Mr. E. Osborne, and Dr. F. W. Clark (Medical Officer of Health and Acting Secretary).

#### THE REGULATION OF CEMETERIES.

The amended bye-laws for the regulation and sanitary maintenance of cemeteries were submitted.

Mr. OSBORNE asked if the Medical Officer of Health would explain why some of the bye-laws had been amended and new ones added. It would assist them to arrive at a proper conclusion as to whether they were necessary or not. He thought it was also due to the public that they should know whether they were necessary or not.

Dr. CLARK said the question of the cemetery bye-laws was raised in consequence of a letter received by the Colonial Secretary from the Secretary to the Commodore complaining that according to a report made by P. C. Rew, of the R. N. Yard Police, certain irregularities were observed at an interment. Rew said: "The man being a Roman Catholic was buried

in the cemetery belonging to his creed in Happy Valley and on arrival at the grave, which was closely surrounded by many others, it was found that the coffin could not be properly lowered. On further excavating to make room for it other coffins were laid bare and one—that of an infant—had to be taken out and replaced on the top of Rew's coffin. When finally lowered in the grave I do not think the corpse could have been two feet below the surface." That letter appeared in the press. He might say that while there was a bye-law saying that bodies must be interred at a certain depth, unless there was some representative of the Board present to see that that was done these breaches of the law would occur and the Board could take no action. For that reason the Colonial Secretary referred the matter to himself and the President of the Board with the view to their making better provision for the control of cemeteries other than the Protestant cemeteries at Happy Valley, where there was an officer of the Public Works Department. But there was practically no control over the other cemeteries, and with the view to providing that control these amended bye-laws had been submitted to the Board.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—The fact is that the bye-laws were there, but there was no one to see that they were enforced.

Dr. CLARK—Bye-law one is very necessary from the fact that practically no officer of the Board had any right of entry to these cemeteries.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—On the last occasion the consideration of the amended bye-laws was postponed on the suggestion of the Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer, who promised to submit a draft bye-law as to the length of time after interment a corpse might be exhumed, but he has not done so. I do not know whether members wish to go on now with the consideration of the bye-laws as they stand. At the last meeting there seemed to be some feeling that the Board should be bound down to a fixed limit of time.

Mr. DYER BALL—I seconded Dr. Lowson's resolution, but I simply desired that we should have a little more time to consider the bye-laws. I have no further objection in any way.

Mr. OSBORNE said he had carefully gone through the bye-laws and the correspondence which led up to them, and when he came into that room he was of opinion that Nos. 8 and 9 were unnecessary. However, after the explanation of the Medical Officer of Health he withdrew his objection. It seemed to him as regarded No. 8 that it would be giving the Chinese a great deal of unnecessary trouble to require them to ask the permission of the Medical Officer of Health to disinter, but he understood now that they had been doing this all along and that they had no objection to it. In regard to No. 9 he thought it was unnecessary to worry people in charge of funeral arrangements by obliging them to give two hours' notice to the Sanitary Board's official of their intention to inter; but the Medical Officer of Health had pointed out that these bye-laws as they existed were useless inasmuch as there could be no one present to enforce them. The only point which occurred to him was that it should be made a little more definite where the public were to give this notice and to whom, because in this colony burials took place so very quickly after death that the Sanitary Board's offices might be closed the whole of the time between the death and the time of burial. For instance if a death took place on Saturday the burial would take place on the Sunday.

Dr. CLARK—The Board have an official resident down at Happy Valley.

Mr. OSBORNE—And notice can be left there?

Dr. CLARK—It is intended it should be. The undertaker will know where to give notice. I beg to move that the bye-laws made by the Board for the regulation and sanitary maintenance of cemeteries on August 6th, 1891, be repealed.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY seconded and the motion was carried.

The amended bye-laws were then gone through seriatim and adopted.

#### THE REGULATION OF COMMON

##### LODGING HOUSES.

Messes. Deacon and Hastings applied on behalf of the Kwong Yuen shop, No. 294, Queen's Road Central, for registration of their premises as a lodging-house, adding:—

"The premises are only occupied at night by the employes of the shop, who are 26 in number, and no outsider is ever allowed to sleep there. The business of the shop is preparing and selling birds'-nests. Our clients, however, strongly object to putting up the board outside their premises as required by bye-law No. 9 of the bye-laws relating to common lodging-houses. Our clients say that it would spoil their business to put up such a board, as the premises are not in reality a common lodging-house, and no outsider can come there and demand a lodging."

The following minutes were appended:—

Medical Officer of Health—"In my opinion bye-law 9 of the Common Lodging-house Bye-laws should be repealed. The late Acting Registrar-General has already informed the Board that there is no such thing as a common lodging-house, such as we understand it at home, in the colony, i.e., no house at which a casual tramp can obtain a bed for one night only on payment of a small fee, and in that case there is no object in requiring the exhibition of a board. On the other hand, a reference to Ordinance 4 of 1895, section 2, will show that many premises are legally lodging-houses upon the exterior of which it is most unreasonable to require the exhibition of a board bearing the words 'registered lodging-house,' and as the law was enacted mainly with a view to prevent overcrowding I think the object will be secured best by the repeal of this obnoxious bye-law. It is quite unnecessary to have this board posted up for the information of the Inspectors, as they all have lists of the lodging-houses in their districts, while as regards the second paragraph of the bye-law that board has been done away with for more than two years past, owing to the fact that they were moved about from house to house, and the numbers are now painted on the walls."

The rest of the members of the Board also minuted in favour of the repeal of the bye-law and the granting of the application.

On the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by Mr. DYER BALL, bye-law No. 9 was repealed.

#### CHINESE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AND THE RECENT EPIDEMIC.

Correspondence having reference to the assistance rendered by Chinese officials in Kowloon during the recent outbreak of bubonic plague was submitted.

Dr. CLARK said that at the previous meeting of the Board he reported that he had received an intimation from the Colonial Secretary that the Viceroy of Canton had informed him that the Chinese officials in question had been recommended for distinction and the Board expressed the hope that Mr. Hillier would be informed of the decision of the Viceroy. The Board had learned that Mr. Hillier had been so informed.

#### PETITIONS FOR MORE PAY.

Correspondence having reference to the pay of the Chinese employes of the Government was submitted. It arose out of a petition presented to the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, and dated April 20th, from all the scavengers of the various markets in Hongkong requesting that an increase may be made to their wages. The petition states:—

"Petitioners have been employed as scavengers in various markets for many a year. Recently there has been a sudden increase in the cost of living. The price of firewood, rice, oil, meat, vegetables, etc., has augmented by nearly double. Petitioners' wages are at the present time hardly sufficient for their own expenses on food and clothing and as a consequence their parents, wives, and children have to suffer hunger and cold. Petitioners, therefore, humbly request that you will take the foregoing circumstances into consideration and graciously grant some increase to their wages, so that their families may not suffer hunger and cold."

The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, in a letter dated May 11th, said that had the market scavengers not raised the question of their pay it was his intention to have done so himself. Since the present scale of pay was fixed there had been a considerable increase in the cost of living which even affected men of this class, and he found it very difficult to keep good men, and even bad ones would not stay long. The whole staff of coolies in his department were insubordinate and did not perform their work efficiently, as they knew that they could easily

obtain work elsewhere at the same rate of pay if dismissed. Consequently it was a very difficult matter to keep the markets in a proper and sanitary condition. He thought that in order to get good work done the coolies should be better paid and divided into two classes, the first class to be composed of those men at present paid \$7 and \$8, to be raised to \$9 a month; and the second class to be made up of those coolies who now received \$5 and \$6 per month, to be raised to \$7 per month. The total increase under this scheme would be \$612 per annum.

A petition dated September 13th from the foremen scavengers for an increase of pay was submitted. It was signed by A. Delgado, J. L. Rocha, D. Santos, J. R. Castillo, F. Malibund, and A. Kader, and ran as follows:—

"Your petitioners are now receiving a salary of \$30 per month. Most of them are married men and do not receive any compensation whatsoever besides their present salary, but a deduction from their salary for the widows and orphans fund has been made during the last two months. Your petitioners would humbly and respectfully point out that their present salary does not cover the cost of living in the present position of the colony. The price of meat and other provisions has risen considerably, and with regard to house rent, where they used to pay \$8 a month they are now paying \$12. Your petitioners would humbly and respectfully point out that the price of everything having been so much augmented they find themselves hardly able to support their families and are compelled to become involved in financial difficulties. Your petitioners beg most respectfully to solicit the favour of your kind assistance and generous consideration of this petition, and trust you will grant an increase or an allowance per month in order that your petitioners may be able to meet their monthly expenditure of house rent, household necessities, etc."

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. E. Osborne—"If this application be granted others of a similar nature will doubtless follow, and I therefore think the question of increased pay to compensate for the enhanced cost of living should be considered as a whole and in reference to all the Sanitary Board's servants."

The Vice-President—"This class of people are having a bad time of it and should be compensated along with the Chinese employes of the Government."

The Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer—"The money is not sufficient. Anyone knows that. Agree with Mr. Osborne and other members."

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I think the best thing we can do is to forward these to the Government.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY—Has the sum to be included in the estimates for next year?

Dr. CLARK—Yes.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—These things should be dealt with as a whole.

Mr. OSBORNE said the question of the pay of the Sanitary Board's officials required a considerable amount of consideration. He understood that the European inspectors of the Sanitary Board received less pay than some men of the same class in other Government departments, and if the Sanitary Board were to have their work carried out properly and efficiently the men must be paid properly.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Before you joined the Board the inspectors applied for an increase of pay, and the Government have the matter under consideration.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY said they had a petition from these men—five Portuguese and one Indian. They had no report as to what their duties were, and he would suggest that before they went further the Secretary be asked to prepare a concise report on the subject, stating what the duties of these individuals were and whether their claim for more pay was good or not. With regard to the men receiving \$30, they all said it was not enough, but there might be a good deal to say on the other side. \$30 a month was not bad pay for a coolie, and he did not know what these men were and what their duties were. He moved that the report be suggested should be prepared.

The VICE-PRESIDENT seconded, and the motion was carried.

#### A WANT AT SOKONPO.

A report from the Medical Officer of Health was submitted concerning the need for an additional public latrine at Sokonpo.

On the motion of the VICE-PRESIDENT, seconded by the Hon. R. D. ORMSBY, it was decided to recommend the Government to place the latrine proposed to be erected at Kennedy-town at Sokonpo.

#### APPLICATION FROM THE HON. C. P. CHATER.

Messrs. Leigh and Lorange, civil engineers and architects, applied on behalf of the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., for permission for a trough water closet in each of the four blocks of offices now being erected on the new Praya Reclamation, Marine Lots 102 and 103. They add that they propose that the closets shall be similar to those at the Hongkong Club with proper flushing cisterns and to be fixed to the approval of the Board's surveyor.

On the motion of the VICE-PRESIDENT, seconded by the Hon. R. D. ORMSBY, it was decided to grant the application.

#### HONGKONG MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The Hongkong mortality statistics for the week ended September 10th showed the death rate to be 20.1, against 19.1 for the previous week, and 20.6 for the corresponding week last year. The rate for the following week was 17.9, against 23.5 for the corresponding week last year.

#### MACAO MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality return for Macao for the week ended September 4th gave the number of deaths as 42. The number for the following week was 48.

#### THE PLAGUE AT BOMBAY.

A plague return from Bombay showed that the number of plague cases reported in the city of Bombay from August 16 to August 29th was 344, there being 308 plague deaths.

This was all the business.

#### THE KWA-GSI REBELLION.

##### ARREST AND EXECUTION OF THE REBEL LEADER.

News has been received at Canton by wire that the leader of the Kwangsi Rebellion, Li Lop-ting, has been captured and executed. He was reported some time ago to have taken refuge with a number of his followers in a mountain fastness as Ng-ma-shan, where he was hemmed in by the troops under the command of General Sou. He would appear to have found a way out, but only to rush to his destruction, for it is now stated that he was captured and executed about ten days ago, together with his two aides-de-camp named Lu and Chau and three hundred followers by a military officer named Fong Kwai-ting, in Ling-shan district, Leinchow prefecture, Kwangtung, whither he had fled in the hope of escaping General Sou's men. His head is expected to reach Canton in a few days.

#### NURSES' MEMORIAL FUND.

At noon on Saturday, 17th September, a meeting of subscribers to the fund which has been raised for the purpose of erecting a memorial to the late Sisters Gertrude and Frances, who died of plague, was held in the Chamber of Commerce Room, City Hall. The Rev. R. F. Cobbold presided, and he was supported by Mr. T. Jackson, hon. treasurer.

The CHAIRMAN read the notice convening the meeting, and asked Mr. Jackson to submit a statement with regard to the accounts.

Mr. JACKSON—The account was supposed to close on Wednesday night, but we got \$25 extra on Thursday, bringing the total amount subscribed to \$2,536. I may say that it was a very general impression that subscriptions should be limited to about \$10 each, or I have no doubt a very much larger sum would have been got. You will have noticed from the statements published from day to day in the newspapers how widely spread were the subscriptions, there being a great number of names for small amounts. This we think is the very best way to show the sympathy of the community with the deceased sisters and their friends. It is for me now to hand over to the Chairman the memorandum showing the amount.

The CHAIRMAN said—On behalf of the Committee which I hope will be elected at this meeting to take further steps in this matter, I have received from the honorary treasurer a memorandum showing that the sum of \$2,536 has been subscribed by the community for this purpose. I think the only other business we have before us is to elect a committee, which I would suggest should be a small one, for the purpose of carrying out the object in view. I believe the wishes of the friends of the deceased ladies have been consulted, and that they have stated that they hope a committee will be formed and that they will entirely trust the committee to carry this matter out to the best possible end. I would ask you, then, to consider the proposal that a committee be formed to carry this out. I do not wish to propose the names of the committee myself. I think if you have anyone to suggest it will come best from you as a body of subscribers.

Dr. BATESON WRIGHT—I beg to propose that Mr. Jackson, Mr. Cobbold, the Chief Justice, Mr. Chater, and Dr. Atkinson form the committee, that the decision of the committee should be final, and that we should not have another meeting of the subscribers. We have full trust in the committee and do not wish to meet again.

Mr. JACKSON—I would suggest that you substitute Mr. Ormsby's name for mine. I should be of no use whilst Mr. Ormsby would be of use.

Dr. WRIGHT—I can add Mr. Ormsby's name to the others.

This was done, and the resolution, having been seconded by Mr. R. C. WILCOX, was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I think in all probability whatever the Committee decide to do, they will probably have some plans of whatever memorial is proposed, and give an opportunity to the public to see them, but we should not feel bound to call a meeting.

The proceedings then terminated.

### INTERESTING CEREMONY AT THE CENTRAL POLICE STATION.

#### PRESENTATION TO DEPUTY-SUPERINTENDENT HOWE.

At noon on 20th Sept. the European members of the Hongkong Police Force were assembled in the billiard room at the Central Police Station, under the chairmanship of the Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), for the purpose of witnessing a presentation on their behalf to Mr. T. A. Howe, who after acting as Deputy Superintendent for the past 12 months, left for home on the 21st in the *Doric*. Previous to coming to Hongkong Mr. Howe was connected with the Royal Irish Constabulary, which body he again joins. Mr. Howe has not been long in Hongkong, but his stay has been long enough for the men to fully appreciate his worth, and they accordingly determined that he should not go away without taking with him some tangible token of their esteem. They, therefore, clubbed together and purchased a silver bowl, a claret jug with silver handle and lid, a silver cigarette case, and a miniature ricksha and coolie in silver. The bowl, which is on an elaborately carved stand of ebony, is beautifully chased in characteristic Chinese fashion, and on it are inscribed the words, "Presented to T. A. Howe, Esq., Royal Irish Constabulary, by the European members of the Hongkong Police Force in remembrance of his service as Deputy Superintendent of Police in Hongkong, 1897-98." The claret jug is similarly inscribed on the lid, and the cigarette case bears Mr. Howe's monogram.

Chief-Inspector Mackie, in making the presentation said—Mr. Howe, the European members of the force have asked you to meet them to-day for the purpose of bidding you good-bye, but before doing so they have asked me on their behalf to present to you this handsome bowl and claret jug, etc., as a mark of the esteem and respect in which you have been held by them, and as mementoes of your connection with the Hongkong Station. When we first heard that you, Mr. T. A. Howe, district superintendent in the Royal Irish Constabulary, said to be the finest force in the world, were coming out to Hongkong to take over the duties of Deputy Superintendent, we were very anxious to know what sort of man you were—how we

should get along with you; how you would perform your duties. Well, you came. You have been with us nearly a year, and the handsome presents before me clearly show the verdict which the European members of the force arrived at. (Applause.) I may safely say, sir, that before you had been here two months you were quite popular with the whole force, the lady members included. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Our drill season will soon be upon us, and we shall very much miss your word of command on parade and the nice and unassuming manner in which you instructed the inspectors and sergeants in drilling men. Coming as you did, sir, from such a well drilled force as the Royal Irish Constabulary, I am afraid you found drill to be one of our weak points as compared with that of the R.I.C. You, therefore, took a great deal of trouble and pains with us, compiling a neat and handy drill book, the run upon which clearly showed how much it has been appreciated. You have always been kind and courteous towards us, and in all your dealings with us have clearly shown you have studied the ways of policemen and that you were an officer and a gentleman well suited to command them and to earn their respect. We, therefore, heard with very great regret that you were leaving us. (Hear, hear.) The most pleasant part of my duty now begins, and that is to present to you these handsome pieces of plate. We wish you a pleasant voyage to the old country, a happy re-union with your old comrades, that you may rise to the rank of Inspector-General of the R. I. C.—(applause)—retire on a well-earned pension, and live long to enjoy it. (Applause.)

Three ringing cheers and a "tiger" were given for Mr. Howe.

Mr. Howe, in reply, said—Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mackie, inspectors, and men of the European branch of the Hongkong Police Force. I think this is the proudest and the happiest moment of my life, when I find myself the recipient of such a splendid present—such a splendid testimonial to my unworthy merits. But what I value even more are the very kind words used by Mr. Mackie in making the presentation on your behalf in which he expressed the good wishes of the force regarding myself. As he said, I have only been with you a short time, but during that time I have learned to respect and esteem you and I think you have a certain amount of confidence in myself—at least it would appear so from your conduct at the end of my service. (Hear, hear.) I do not know what I have done to deserve such a very handsome present. I required nothing to keep your memory green. There is one thing, and that is that on the first festive occasion on which I fill this bowl the very first toast will be "The European members of the Hongkong Police Force." (Applause.) I shall take occasion to have that done within a very short period of my arrival at home. (Hear, hear.) I hope sincerely you will continue to go on as you have done since I first knew you. As Mr. Mackie has remarked, I have come from a force which has a high reputation. I have mingled with other forces at home officially and otherwise, and I can assure you that you will bear favourable comparison with them. (Applause.) In Mr. May, our chairman to-day, you have a chief in whom you may have the fullest confidence to do everything which can be of service to you. It is not for me to speak of his merits. I would only personally thank him for the pleasant time I have had while serving under him, and regret it has been so short. (Hear, hear.) I say good-bye with feelings of the deepest regret. I wish you all good luck and prosperity in the future in the honourable career you have chosen, for I think the career of a policeman is one of the most honourable careers a man can pursue. (Applause.)

The Hon. F. H. May observed—Mr. Howe made some allusion to me, for which I have to thank him very much. Not only has the Force been benefited by Mr. Howe's service, but it has done a good deal in a small way towards forming a link between the old country and her most distant colony. I like to think, and no doubt you all do, of the British empire as one compact whole. I believe if Her Majesty's Government were to pursue the policy which has been pursued in respect to Hongkong

and sent out some of her best men to fill acting appointments in the colonies and give the colonial officials a chance to do the same at home it would do a great deal to join the empire together. (Applause.)

Mr. Howe having shaken hands with all present the proceedings terminated with three cheers for the R.I.C.

### POST OFFICE PROSECUTIONS.

At the Magistracy on Saturday a postman was sentenced to four months' hard labour for fraudulently detaining a letter, the property of the Postmaster-General, the previous day, and was sentenced to a further period of four months for removing a postage stamp from the same letter.

On the 20th September, before Commander Hastings, Tsang Tso, a messenger in the Hongkong Post Office, was charged with unlawfully attempting to remove postage stamps from a parcel while the same was in the custody of the Postmaster-General.

S. Moosa, a clerk in the Post Office, said that at eleven o'clock that morning he was in the parcel office when he saw defendant with the parcel produced in his hand trying to pull off the stamps. It was his duty to obliterate them. He called defendant and took him to Mr. Thomson, who directed him to charge him. He handed him over to the police.

Defendant, who said, "I did not try to remove the stamps," was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

On the 21st September Commander Hastings had two more Chinese letter-carriers before him. They were charged with detaining letters and were each sentenced to six months' hard labour. They both pleaded guilty.

### THE WEIHAIWEI CONVENTION.

We have received (states *The Times*) from one of our correspondents in China the following, which he believes to be the full text of the Convention signed at Peking for the lease of Weihaiwei to Great Britain:—

In order to provide Great Britain with a suitable naval harbour in North China, and for the better protection of British commerce in the neighbouring seas, the Government of His Majesty the Emperor of China agrees to lease to the Government of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland Weihaiwei, in the province of Shantung, and the adjacent waters for so long a period as Port Arthur shall remain in the occupation of Russia.

The territory leased shall comprise the island of Liukung and all other islands in the Bay of Weihaiwei, and a belt of land ten English miles wide along the entire coast line of the Bay of Weihaiwei. Within the above-mentioned territory leased Great Britain shall have sole jurisdiction.

Great Britain shall have, in addition, the right to erect fortifications, station troops, or take any other measures necessary for defensive purposes, at any points on or near the coast of the region east of the meridian 120 degrees 40 min. E. of Greenwich, and to acquire on equitable compensation within that territory such sites as may be necessary for water supply, communications, and hospitals. Within that zone Chinese administration will not be interfered with, but no troops other than Chinese or British shall be allowed therein.

It is also agreed that within the walled city of Weihaiwei Chinese officials shall continue to exercise jurisdiction, except so far as may be inconsistent with naval and military requirements for the defence of the territory leased.

It is further agreed that Chinese vessels of war, whether neutral or otherwise, shall retain the right to use the waters herein leased to Great Britain.

It is further understood that there will be no expropriation or expulsion of the inhabitants of the territory herein specified, and that, if land is required for fortifications, public offices, or any official or public purpose, it shall be bought at a fair price.

This Convention shall come into force on signature. It shall be ratified by the Sovereigns of the two countries, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in London as soon as possible.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present agreement.

CLAUDE M. MACDONLD.

PRINCE CHING (Senior Member of the Tsung-li Yamén).

LIAO SHOU HENG (President of Board of Punishments).

Done at Peking in quadruplicate (four copies in English and four in Chinese) the first day of July in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, being the thirteenth day of the fifth moon of the twenty-fourth year of Kuang-hsi.

### THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

#### CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR SEPTEMBER.

There was a very good attendance on the links for the monthly competition. For the cup there were 28 entries and the pool attracted 26 members. Both events were won by the gallant Commander, who has been a most assiduous player during his stay in Hongkong, and who has on former occasions very nearly scored a "win" in this competition; to his great satisfaction and the general pleasure of members he has at last secured the medal, as a memento of many hardly contested games on our links, to take home with him on leaving the station towards the end of the year. His runner-up played a very good game—51 and 43—only marred by an 8 at the seventh hole in his first round.

All the returns were sent in on the first day:—

Com. Taylor, R.N.	91	11	80*
Lient. Brooke, R.N.	94	10	84*
Mr. J. F. A. Hastings, R.N.	102	15	87
Major Luke, R.M.L.I.	100	11	89*
Mr. W. J. Gresson	109	18	91
Mr. W. J. Saunders	103	11	92*
Mr. E. F. Mackay	107	11	96*
Mr. T. A. Howe, R.I.C.	126	18	108*

\* Also entered for the Pool.

### THE DOUGLAS STEAM-SHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the fifteenth ordinary general meeting, to be held at the offices of the Company, on Tuesday, the 27th September, at noon:—

The General Managers have now to submit their report on the fifteenth year's working of the Company ended 30th June, 1898. After paying all running expenses, premia of insurance, remuneration to consulting committee, and auditors' fees, there remains a net profit of \$226,714.46, and with the consent of the shareholders, it is proposed to appropriate this amount as follows:—

To write off \$48,185.46 from the book values of the Company's property on the 30th June last, less the amount of the Reserve Fund, being the equivalent of 8 per cent. thereon, and to pay a dividend of 12 per cent. on the capital of the Company, which will absorb a further \$120,000.00, and to transfer \$58,529.00 to the credit of the Reserve Fund, which will then stand at \$174,162.14.

The General Managers venture to hope that the result of the year's working must be considered satisfactory by shareholders, especially in view of the high price ruling for coal during the whole year, the increase for this item being about \$65,000.00 as compared with the previous 12th months.

It is with regret that the loss of the steamer *Namoa* has to be referred to; she was wrecked on the 3rd October last off the Cow's Horn Point whilst on her usual voyage from Amoy to Foochow. Her loss affects the Company's insurance fund to the extent at \$19,477.81. To replace her it was decided to build another steamer of larger capacity and improved type, and, with the approval of the Consulting Committee, a contract was placed with Messrs. David J. Dunlop & Co., of Port Glasgow. She is expected to arrive here about the end of December next.

To fill temporary requirements the *Nanyang* was chartered, and, later on, the *Kongbeng* after the expiration of the former's term of engagement.

The new wharf is being proceeded with, and it is hoped will be available for use in about 3 months.

The steamers of the Company have undergone the usual annual Government survey, and are all in efficient condition.

#### CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Since the last general meeting Messrs. C. A. Tomes and A. Ross have resigned, and Messrs. R. Shewan and C. H. Thompson fill the vacancies. The Committee now consists of the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Messrs. D. Gubbay, R. Shewan, and C. H. Thompson. In terms of the Articles of Association all these gentlemen retire, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

#### AUDITORS.

The present accounts have been audited by Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. H. Gaskell, who retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.,  
General Managers.

#### BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1898.

	LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
Capital account:—			
20,000 shares at \$50	1,000,000.00		
Reserve fund	115,633.14		
Underwriting account of the Company	39,906.69		
Sundry accounts payable	33,445.14		
Unpaid dividends	36.00		
Unpaid bonus	138.00		
Profit and loss account	226,714.46		
	\$1,415,873.43		

	ASSETS.	\$	c.
Value of the Co's steamers <i>Hailong</i> , <i>Formosa</i> , <i>Haitan</i> , <i>Thales</i> , and <i>Haimun</i>	\$714,000.00		
Value of buoys and moorings at Swatow, Amoy, Tamsui, and Hongkong, steam launch and sundry spare gear	3,951.41		
	717,951.41		
Material for new wharf at Hongkong	36,581.65		
Payments for steamer now building	161,991.97		
Loans on mortgage	152,500.00		
The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	33,071.13		
Value of coal in stock	11,100.00		
Freights due 30th June, 1898	106,496.45		
Shares in public companies	100,000.00		
Sundry accounts receivable from agencies, &c.	95,873.92		
Cash in hand	306.90		
	\$1,415,873.43		

#### PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1898.

To remuneration to General Managers for office expenses, for 12 months	10,000.00
To remuneration to Consulting Committee for 12 months	2,000.00
To auditors' fees	600.00
To exchange account	2,014.62
To charges account	139.48
To balance	226,714.46
	\$241,468.56

By profit on running the Company's steamers to date	\$ 182,625.82
By profit on coals supplied to steamers	1,088.3
By interest on deposits account	2,984.31
By interest on mortgages account	9,575.11
By bonuses received	1,448.20
By dividends on shares	3,469.84
By balance from Government for old wharf in Hongkong	277.25
Steamer <i>Namoa</i> , difference between book value and amount realized under insurance policies	40,000.00
	\$241,468.56

### MESSRS. S. C. FARNHAM & CO., LD.

The sixth annual general meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held at Shanghai on the 14th September. There were present Messrs. G. Galles (Chairman), J. R. Twentyman, and D. Peebles (Directors), C. Thorne, J. M. Young, Nils Möller, T. Crauston, G. R. Corner, F. A. Hanisch, E. Guillemin, W. Taylor, P. Pilkington, G. W. Noël, T. Pemberton, S. Groundwater, W. S. Jackson, D. Black, and H. Von Rücker (acting Secretary).

The notice convening the meeting having been read.

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, our report and accounts have been in your hands for some time, and with your permis-

sion we will take them as read. You will have noticed that we have this year followed the lead of many other companies in not publishing our working account, a copy of which is on the table and you are of course very welcome to see it. Before coming to the capital account I should like to mention that we have again been in the fortunate position to charge a good many repairs and improvements in our works to running expenditure. We have for instance lengthened our Tungkadoo Dock 45 feet, and entirely renewed our Old Dock pump house foundations. Our buildings, plant, etc., are all well kept up and in good working condition. Regarding our assets, we have given a few more details to meet a wish expressed by some of our shareholders. During the year about 10 *mow* of land adjoining our Cosmopolitan Dock property was bought by us at a reasonable figure, making a total area of 117 *mow* of new land, which cost us about Tls. 335 per *mow* only, inclusive of bunding and wall. Considering that land close to ours was bought at about Tls. 650 per *mow*, this must be regarded as a first-class investment, and will increase in value as time goes on. Our old Lower Dock property measures about 45 *mow* more. When our Mr. Twentyman was at home last year, he purchased a new iron boiler shop, iron sheer legs to lift about 60 tons, and a lot of valuable machinery, which explains the increase of Tls. 65,678.82 in the items machinery, etc. Some of our shares in public companies were sold at a good profit, thus reducing the item shares and cost of *Drumeltan* by about Tls. 7,000. This vessel is now on her way back from New York, and has been doing very well so far. Sundry debtors Tls. 100,597.90 appears rather high, but as this item includes our expenditure on the Cosmopolitan Dock up to the 30th of June last, this can easily be understood. The construction of this dock is getting on slowly, owing to the nature of the soil, but we are doing our utmost to overcome the difficulties in connection with such an undertaking. If any shareholder has any questions to ask I shall be pleased to answer them.

Mr. Nils Möller asked what the gross earnings of the company had been. The Chairman in reply referred Mr. Möller to the working account which was laid on the table. There being no further questions, it was proposed by Mr. Galles, seconded by Mr. Twentyman:—That the report and accounts of the Company for the year ending 30th August be adopted and approved, and that the directors be authorised to pay a dividend of Tls. 12 per share to the shareholders on the register at this date.

Carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr. C. Thorne, seconded by Mr. Nils Möller:—That Mr. J. R. Twentyman be re-elected a director of the Company.

Carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr. J. M. Young, seconded by Mr. T. Pemberton:—That Messrs. G. R. Corner and W. H. Anderson be re-elected Auditors for the present year.

This concluded the business of the meeting and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Directors on the motion of Mr. G. W. Noël, seconded by Mr. C. Thorne. —*N. C. Daily News.*

### THE PUNJOM MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following progress report on work done at the Company's mines in Pahang during the month of August:—

North Drive.—We have continued this a further distance of 42 feet, making total length on course of lode 58 feet, 6 inches. The lode is defined and the stone is similar to the stone on the western chute at the 200 feet level; the value, however, is the same as last reported. I intend continuing this drive further north. It will prove a lot of new ground and will go up under the hill prospected by the Kladdy tunnels.

South Drive No. 1.—We continued this a further distance of 10 feet 6 inches, making total length on course of lode 120 feet, when work was discontinued owing to our getting close up to our East Drive. I did not think it advisable to break through at present as it would make the ground heavy at the junction of the drives.

South Drive No. 2.—36 feet 6 inches was

driven here during the month, making total length on the course of the lode 84 feet. There is a more promising kind of ground making in the face at present and I shall continue to extend this further south as it is all virgin ground between this and Tankong and will go back under the ground formerly worked by the Chinese and surface shafts and from which payable gold was won.

North off West.—We have continued this stope south but the gold was not continuous.

Winze 200 feet Level.—This is now down 104 feet 6 inches, 19 feet 6 inches having been sunk during the month.

The lode is the same as last reported, but I have stopped the sinking of this for the present and put the men to drive south to see if the gold is making in that direction.

Surface Shaft.—We have sunk this near the course of the east and west lode and about 100 feet west of where the lode is broken. I want to prove if the west lode is continuous. Near this and from where we are taking the headings there are large boulders of quartz, some showing gold in the stone; they are too large to have been carried there.

New Find No. 2 Level.—This measures 130 feet; 20 feet 6 inches having been driven during the month. The change of ground referred to in my last report proved to be a leader, so we brought the men back and opened up on a leader previously passed through by this drive, and this has now opened out to a large body, proving it to be the same lode that No. 1 level cut through, but we should still have to continue No. 2 to intersect the lode in No. 3 level.

No. 3 Level.—We continued the cross cut through the lode a further distance of 5 feet, making total length 16 feet. We have not reached the hanging wall yet, but we have suspended work for the present and put the men on to get the necessary timbers for the sinking of the shaft.

Tankong.—During the month 200 feet of levels have been added to this section. The North Drive on the hanging wall of the main body measures 33 feet 6 inches and the stone won from this gives, as per assay report, gold 10 dwts. 14 grs., silver 15 dwts. 21 grains per ton. The drive south on the foot wall of the lode measures 69 feet and the stone from this gives by assay gold 16 dwts. 14 grains, silver 10 dwts. 14 grains per ton. A drive was put out east connecting the north and south drives showing at this point 20 feet of lode. The men are now taking out ground preparatory for sinking of shaft 8 feet by 4 feet in the clear. We have not milled any stone from this section during the month owing to the scarcity of water, as we could not spare the extra firewood it would have taken to run the tailings pump.

Outside prospecting.—We have found what appears to be a separate out crop from that of the Tankong Lode. It is the same hill, however, but to the west of the Tankong Mine. It is nice looking stone carrying mineral. We have not done much work on it as yet.

Milling was carried on equal to 24 days with the full battery, crushing 1,900 tons of headings for a yield of 167 ounces 5 dwts of smelted gold.

Berdan Pans treated 26 tons of old tailings and concentrates for a yield of 13 ounces of gold.

Cyanide Works.—Owing to the dry weather these only worked 6 days, from the 15th to 18th inclusive, and 30th and 31st. I had hoped that after the weather broke on the 13th and 14th that we should have had sufficient water. This is now going full time.

Water Supply.—We have been very short of this, in fact we were only able to run the battery for six days during the month without the assistance of the engines. We have an ample supply now for all our requirements and I think it will be continuous.

Clean up was finished by 4 p.m. on the 1st, when milling was resumed with the full battery, and I hope to run the full month 30 days, when we hope to have an increased yield.

General.—We have given our usual attention to this by extending our roads for firewood and other timbers. We have a fairly good stock of firewood on hand.

Health of Camp.—This is much better than when last reported.

Rainfall.—We have registered on the mine 9½ in.; 5½ in. of this fell from the 29th to 31st.

## FRENCH AND BRITISH INFLUENCE IN KWANGTUNG.

### A KNOCK-OUT BLOW FOR GREAT BRITAIN AND THE "DAILY PRESS."

In the *Daily Press* of the 13th August appeared a leading article on the alleged French protest against the granting of a concession to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. for the construction of a railway from Canton to Kowloon. In the course of the article the term "The effrontery of the alleged protest" was employed. The *Avenir du Tonkin* in its issue of the 17th September, has an article in reply headed "Effrontés, et pourquoi?" which is solemnly "Dédié au Rédacteur du *Hongkong Daily Press*." We translate the article as follows:—

You say, sir, that France has committed an affront in regard to England. That is a big word to address, as you address it, to a friendly nation. The affair, then, must be of major importance to induce you to depart from propriety of language. Let us look at it closely then. It concerns the railway from Canton to Kowloon. You wish to get the line for the advantage of England. Our Ambassador at Peking opposes it. Hence we are, according to you, *effrontés*. *Effrontés* say you? And why?

With us *effrontés* are those who arrogate to themselves rights they do not possess and who refuse recognition to the rights of others. How do you make out that we are not right in this matter of Kwangtung? How do you make out that you have any rights?

A recent treaty, if I am not mistaken, places Yunnan, Kwangsi, and Kwangtung in the French sphere of action. What does that mean if not that France has acquired in those provinces, and especially in the province of Kwangtung, an exclusive and privileged position? This province of Kwangtung, with the island of Hainan and the other two provinces, is placed for the future in the domain of France and for the present under her control. I had almost said under her protection. China may still carry on the administration and collect taxes there, but she can no longer act alone in matters that might hinder the economical development, as France understands it, of the territory which must shortly become ours. We have asked China to respect the treaty she has signed with us. And we have affronted you! But why?

This treaty was known to you, to you English, for we have published it far and wide. If you were not disposed to accept it you should have said so at the time and taken the chance if necessary of a war with us for the maintenance of the equilibrium that we had disturbed to your prejudice in the Far East. You remained silent, without fitting out a single vessel, drawing your sword, or even sending a diplomatic note.

Then came the occupation of Kwanchauwan; which we occupied, with or without effrontery, in execution of the treaty. England remained silent and once more by her silence ratified the treaty that we had published. We were not *effrontés*, then, for executing the treaty in part.

Why have we suddenly become *effrontés* for desiring to execute the other part, which gives us a privileged position at Canton? I know that in this latter circumstance we have crossed in a more direct manner your views and wishes; but why have you placed yourselves in a position to be crossed? Why did you ask for a concession that might be disagreeable to us and on territory that must become French? There was effrontery there, if you like, but it was not on our side.

And this was not the first effrontery on your part. Already, in order to aggrandise, so to speak, your port of Hongkong, you had taken with Kowloon a good slice of territory cutting into this future French province. We might have opposed it under the rights conferred upon us by the treaty. You, seeing this first affront pass unpunished, have committed a second by asking for a concession for a railway connecting Canton and Hongkong. This time we kick, and then you treat us as *effrontés*, thus attributing your own qualities to others.

And besides, why this request for a concession for a railway when you can go by the West River? You have boasted *urbi et orbi* that the

opening of this river constituted an enormous diplomatic success. If this success was so great, if the way to Canton and beyond was so widely opened, why uselessly tease France by asking for a railway which would have to meet the competition of an already existing maritime and river route? Teasing and effrontery: are these the bottom of your national character?

Meanwhile you treat us as *effrontés*, and the term is for us full of charm, for what you call effrontery in English is in this case translated into French as firmness in assuring respect for our rights. Now, this firmness, or this effrontery, whichever you like, we have had in the past and will continue to have in the future. *Effrontés* we are, *effrontés* we remain. Will not this reduce to nothing your teasings and impropriety?

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

### THE IMPUTED DESIGNS OF THE SPANISH PRIESTS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—My attention has been called to an article which appeared in your issue of yesterday on the Philippines. It contains assertions, under the conveniently-styled guise of "rumours," that are calculated to seriously prejudice the priests alluded to.

There has been of late a tendency in evidence to give ready publicity to all sorts of injurious reports with the concealed object of damaging the character of the various missionary bodies until recently exercising their mission in the Philippines. One noteworthy feature of these "reports" is that the writers who so boldly make the damaging assertions do not appear to be quite so eager or scrupulous in their endeavour to verify actual facts—when the means of verification are easily accessible—before rushing into public print. Without citing any particular article, I have no hesitation in saying that the reading public have lately been served with wholly unfounded reports, to put up with which the utmost limit of endurance has been reached.

It would not have been my intention to trouble myself to make any refutation of the particular paragraph of your article of Saturday under notice had it not been for the fact that at the present stage of affairs the so-called "rumours" to which your journal has so unhesitatingly been made the medium for giving publicity may very prejudicially affect the proper conduct of any negotiations that are to be shortly carried on in Paris with the object of the restoration of peace to the general good of all interests represented in the Philippines. For no other construction can be placed upon that portion of the article in question as affecting the priests than that, wholly regardless of facts as it really is, it may produce the effect of adding "fuel to fire" at a most inopportune moment, when the early establishment of enduring peace will be hailed as an inestimable blessing to a not inconsiderable portion of mankind as represented by the inhabitants of the Philippines.

These introductory remarks serve to explain the purport of this letter. I will now proceed to disavow most emphatically any evil "designs" on the part of the priests who have so incautiously been made the subject of attack in your journal. It is alleged by the writer of the article that the action of "some priests in Hongkong who came over from Manila" is looked upon with suspicion, presumably because "many of them have begun to wear civilian dress and to let their hair grow." This fact alone appears to have been the ground on which the paragraphist has founded his suspicion. The inference he has drawn is so puerile and so far-fetched that no community of intelligent readers can be imposed upon to be aroused into a state of excitement which the writer has, no doubt, intended to create. The imputation of positive evil to a body of gentlemen based upon evidence of so slender a nature—if evidence it can be called at all—is, to say the least, unworthy of a gentleman at the present juncture. To what extent is the suspicion entertained in

the colony is a question on which the writer might well have informed the public, and satisfied himself that it is general before giving it publicity. If it is only a mere creature of an individual fancy not much blame can be attached to the writer's prolific imagination; but when that fancy is actuated by malice, as it appears to be, it cannot be too strongly condemned.

The next statement in the article alluded to is that "it is believed (by whom, be it noted, is not made apparent) that they (the priests) intend to creep into Manila again and stir up strife among the natives there and in the country." This slanderous belief is utterly unjustifiable, and in the absence of an ability to substantiate the truth of such a damaging assertion it will be accepted by the reading public for what it is worth.

The fact of the convents in the Philippines being now in the possession of the very people who were instrumental in causing the priests' eviction therefrom dissipates all fears that "arms stowed away" therein are intended to be utilised for giving trouble, such intention being evidently attributed to the priests.

In conclusion, Sir, I would beg to express the opinion that conscientious inquiries might, in the first place, have been made at the Procurator, where every facility for such inquiries would have been afforded any gentleman desirous of making them, before any such paragraph as that under comment was penned for public print. This appears to me to be only a necessary precaution quite in keeping with the best traditions of fair and impartial journalism.—Yours faithfully,

FR. EVARISTO TORRES.

Spanish Procurator,  
Hongkong, 18th September, 1898.

#### THE POST OFFICE CASE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I observe your evening contemporaries publish brief reports of proceedings in the Police Court yesterday, two Chinese employes of the Post Office being defendants in a case of unusual interest and importance to the community. It appears from these reports that detectives found in the box of one of the delinquents \$6.30 "in stamps which had been removed from letters in the Post Office, a parcel addressed to Meier & Co., Kobe, one fountain pen, and a number of photographs." The man was found guilty and "sentenced to four months' imprisonment on each of the two charges brought against him, the sentences to run concurrent." The other suspect is, I read, detained pending enquiries by the Police.

My intention in addressing a few lines to you on this subject is to draw attention to the sentence passed upon the man who was found guilty and sentenced to eight months' hard labour. It seems to me, and doubtless many of your readers will concur in the opinion, that the punishment meted out to such an offender is wholly inadequate and will go a very little way towards protecting the public against the gross irregularities which the evidence led in the case must have disclosed. The offences committed by this man were of a most grave nature and it is therefore to be regretted that when the Government had such conclusive proof in their possession the opportunity was not availed of to make the punishment a warning to others for all time.

Taking into consideration the lenient sentence and the long series of complaints about neglect of duty and irregularities in the Postal Department it is to be hoped that the Chamber of Commerce will make special representations to the Government with a view to having the public's correspondence not only protected against stamp-lifters and photo-annexers but properly delivered at their offices and residences.

This Post Office case suggests a few questions which may merit consideration:—

1.—Is the comprador or chief shroff of the Post Office guarantor for all the Chinese employed in the Post Office, either as sorters, stamp vendors, office boys, or delivery men?

2.—Is there a detective employed in the department as clerk, coolie, "boy" or sorter? If not, why not?

3.—How long was the man who is now serving four months for stealing stamps off letters in the service of the Postal Department before he

was entrusted with the handling of correspondence prior to the Post Office mark being placed thereon?

4.—Has any effort been made to introduce the same system of supervision and detection as obtains in the General Post Office in London, or any European capital?

5.—Have the Hongkong Government applied through the proper channel to the Postmaster-General in London for information respecting the general management of the department and the prevention of theft by employes? If not, why not?

6.—Where can the photos stated to have been found in the prisoner's box be seen?

7.—Is it not time that the Government bring out from home, not only Downing Street protégés, but young men (British subjects) who can be trusted to handle the public's correspondence.

8.—Is it not a fact that there are many youths (Eurasians and others) who would be glad to enter the Postal service from the bottom of the ladder, i.e., by first doing the duty of postmen?

9.—Is it not a fact that the salaries of the few Englishmen employed in the sorting department are wholly inadequate?

I trust I am not venturing to trespass too much on your space and that you may see your way to giving the general public a full report of the legal proceedings referred to.—I remain, sir, yours faithfully,

VOX POPULI.

Hongkong, 18th September, 1898.

#### THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE AMERICAN TROOPS AT THE CAPTURE OF MANILA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—In to-day's copy of your paper appears an eye-witness's account, headed—"Before and after the capitulation of Manila." Might I remark that this account is excellent in one particular, i.e., the remarkable facility with which an independent eye-witness can so report or write about events as to convey an entirely erroneous impression. I also was an independent eye-witness, and, in experience, certainly in a better position to form an impartial opinion as regards both Americans and insurgents.

"Independent Eye Witness" can only have formed his opinions as to the movements of the Americans and Insurgents before the fall of Manila from hearsay, as with the exception of the newspaper correspondents and two officers, one English and one Japanese, there was no one else present in the American trenches, or in any position from which he could have personally observed the state of affairs. The same remark holds good as regards the advance on Manila, immediately before and after its capitulation.

"Eye Witness" makes one statement which is not only misleading, through want of technical knowledge, as the foregoing might be, but is absolutely false, and casts a slur on a body of men whose behaviour is an example to the civilized world, when he accuses the American soldiers of looting. Had "Eye Witness" possessed the very smallest elements of military knowledge, or even had he ever read the history of the military expeditions of his own country, he would have been lost in wonder at the perfect behaviour of the American soldier, taking his success so modestly, and instead of violently asserting his victory, humanely protecting life and respecting and guarding both Spanish and Foreign property.

I entered Manila at the same time as the American troops and afterwards devoted a whole week in observing their behaviour, and after questioning the larger number of foreign residents, not one made the slightest complaint of an act of pillage or assault committed by an American soldier. I will even go further and state my absolute belief that there would not be found ten dollars' worth of loot throughout the whole American army at present in the Philippines.—Yours faithfully,

AN EYE WITNESS OF SLIGHT EXPERIENCE.

Hongkong, 20th September, 1898.

The article to which the above letter is a reply was reproduced from the *Singapore Free Press*.—ED. D.P.

#### REBELLION IN SZECHUEN.

A special telegram of the 18th Sept. from Shanghai reported that the rebel chief Yu Mantz had organised a riot at Ho chow, near Chungking, in which the American Mission was looted and the Roman Catholic Mission destroyed. From our files of the *N. C. Daily News* received yesterday we learn that the Shanghai Mandarins recently received dispatches from Chengtu, the provincial capital of Szechuen, reporting the existence of a rebellion in the districts of Tatsn and Tungliang in that province, alleged to be headed by the notorious outlaw Yu Man-tze. Reports magnify the number of the rebels to something like 50,000, but at any rate a body of Imperial troops sent to suppress the rebellion has been badly defeated, leaving the door open for the invasion of Chungking if the rebels desired to attack that port.

The Chungking correspondent of the same paper writes as follows:—The latest and perhaps the most startling piece of news to hand in this city is the death at Chengtu of the Tartar Governor-General which occurred a few days ago. It is broadly stated by those who should know that his death is due to other than natural causes. In any case his demise coincides with French official pressure. Very properly the French authorities had warned H.E. that the ultimate responsibility for the recent troubles in this neighbourhood would rest upon his shoulders and the warning, strengthened as it doubtless was by urgent orders from the Tsung-li Yamen took effect. H.E. is reported to have been a man of shallow attainments, and quite incompetent to grasp or deal with matters requiring intelligent handling or prompt dispatch. It is alleged that our local Taotai, who wires for instructions in connection with the now famous Yu Man-tze case, failed on more than one occasion to obtain any reply whatever, although possibly H.E.'s silence may in this instance have been due as much to evil counsel on the part of others as to his own incapacity or unwillingness to "instruct" in the affair. Your readers will not forget that ex-Taotai Lai has been a resident very much in evidence at the capital—in high favour too with the conservative classes and well-known to be bitterly hostile to foreign interests. Meanwhile Père Fleury is still in bondage, and to make the unfortunate man's captivity yet more "sweet" and bitter, Yu Man-tze has removed him to a coal mine where he now is. The fear is that he will now speedily die even if he is not killed by violence. Yu's argument now would appear to be simply this: Guarantee my life and the captive will be set at liberty." But the French authorities are not likely to be seduced away from pursuing their present object by an appeal of that kind. What their object is they themselves know best, but it is clear that the punishment of Yu the brigand does not comprehend the whole of their policy.

#### THE FORWARD MOVEMENT IN CHINA.

A dispatch from Peking states that the yamens of the six recently abolished Courts are to be turned, for the great part, into colleges of Western learning, and that the yamen of the Supervisorate of Instruction will be the future headquarters of the Bureau of Mechanical Arts and Commerce.

It will be remembered that the Emperor gave, in a recent edict, his Viceroy and Governors one month to report upon what they intended to do or had begun to do in connection with the proposed reforms in regard to the establishment of provincial colleges, secondary and elementary schools of Western learning, bureaux for the encouragement of commerce, railways, mining, agriculture, and the various branches of mechanics within their various jurisdiction, on pain of condign punishment for disobedience to his Majesty's commands. According to dispatches received from Nanking, Soochow, and Yangtze ports, the Viceroys of the Liangkang (Kiangsu, Kiangsi, and Anhui) and Hukuang (Hunan and Hupeh) have instructed their subordinate officers to report within ten days upon the above subjects, which seems to show that the provincial authorities are beginning to move at last under the determined efforts of H.I.M. Kuang Hsu. It is a fact that, with the exception of the now

limited body of openly hostile conservative mandarins at the Metropolis and in the provinces, his Majesty's recent exertions for the reform and strengthening of his empire have endeared him to the great body of his subjects, not even excepting those who at present are in arms against the constituted authorities; many of the uprisings being really aimed at what his Majesty is now himself voluntarily granting and trying to compel his officers of the Crown to grant to the people. Should the Emperor be spared by Providence to continue his noble work of reform, few persons will in future be persuaded to rise up against the Manchu dynasty, which prior to this was universally believed to be in its last throes.

An Imperial edict of the 12th inst. commands the Board of War and Tsungli Yamen to report on a suggestion of three secretaries of Boards to abolish the Imperial courier post in favour of the present Post Office under Sir Robert Hart. Another edict of the same date approves of the plan of the Hanlin Reader Jui Hsün (Manchu) to encourage the establishing of newspapers and magazines in the capital and throughout the Empire as the best means of educating the masses, and commands the high officials everywhere to exhort the gentry and wealthy classes to embark upon such enterprises with full knowledge of the Imperial approval. A third edict replying to a joint report of the Tsungli Yamen and the Board of War, concerning the manner of future examinations of military candidates for degrees, according to Western methods, declares that the joint report is not full enough and lacks essential points of permanent reform. The report is therefore rejected with the command that the memorialists reconsider their report in conjunction with the Grand Council. It will be seen from this that his Majesty Kuang Hsü is not contented with a mere superficial attempt at reformation but that whatever he desires to establish is to be permanent.

An Imperial edict of the 11th instant approves of the suggestions of Hsiao Wen-shao, a third-class Secretary of the Board of Punishments, to establish schools of instruction for planting and manufacturing tea, and for sericulture, according to the best combined Western and Chinese methods, in order to keep up competition with similar foreign manufactures. Viceroy and Governors of provinces where tea and silk are manufactured are therefore commanded to establish at once such schools of instruction and report to the Throne what they have done in the matter. Another edict of the same date sanctions the recommendation of the Grand Secretary Sun Chia-nai to add a medical department to the proposed Peking Imperial University where all that is best of Western and Chinese surgery, pharmacy, and medical practice may be taught to students. A third edict issued the same day commands all high provincial officials from the 3rd grade, or Provincial Judge, upwards, to observe the rule of asking permission to go up to Peking for an Imperial audience, after every third year of their appointment; a rule which of late has not been usually observed. The Emperor's intention in revising this rule is to give him the opportunity of personally examining his high officials from the provinces in order to see whether they are fit for further retention, promotion, or otherwise.—N. C. Daily News.

#### TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Tientsin, 13th September.

Li's fall from power is the one topic of conversation in political circles. The first tidings of the event appeared in the form of an Imperial Decree in the *Peking Gazette*; and, unlike most political changes in China, it was in no way presaged or anticipated, but was a veritable bolt from the blue. The fact is sufficiently assured by the medium of communication, but it is most curious that no verbal corroboration has yet reached us from the capital. There is infinite speculation on the cause of so sudden a change in the Imperial Counsellors, but so far no hypothesis advanced altogether accounts for it. The most plausible theory finds some support in certain Australian telegrams brought up from Singapore and dated 17th August (London). These telegrams

asserted "that Sir Claude Macdonald had demanded Li's dismissal for perfidy." It has been bruited about among the political *quid nuncs* for some time that some six weeks ago Sir Claude got Li's reiterated personal assurance that the Belgian Syndicate Loan was not completed and was still a negotiable subject. The very next morning the Minister had in his hand one of the formal copies of the agreement duly signed and witnessed, showing that at the moment Li was denying it the whole thing was an accomplished fact. This reputed incident enraged Sir Claude and drove him to apply for drastic measures at Downing Street.

Apart from this the petty strife of yamen intrigue has for the moment ceased. Sir Claude Macdonald has somewhat run down in health and is going to Peitaiho for a few days between September 14th and 24th. The Admiral is to take a part of the Fleet for an autumnal cruise up the Gulf at the same time, and it has been arranged that the two will meet there. The Minister, by the bye, has followed the example of Sir Robert Hart and become a *laird* at Peitaiho. He would personally have preferred the new summer Legation quarters to have been there instead of at the Hills; but the F. O. objected. If an important despatch arrives and the Yamen has to be interviewed it can be easily done within twenty-four hours from the Hills, but with the present railway communication it would take at least three days from the seaside resort.

The Marquis Ito is in Tientsin en route for Peking. His Excellency will utilize his interview with the Viceroy to further the cause of the new Japanese Settlement. Its limits have been fixed; but nothing has yet been done to clear out the natives. It lies between the present French Concession and the Native city.

The land regulations of the British Municipal Extension are hanging fire in Peking through the veto of Mr. Pavlov. He is unwilling to allow his compatriots to acquiesce in the new rules as long as certain Britishers are recalcitrant in some dispute at Hankow with the new Russian Municipal authorities in that port.

The Peiho River improvement is now under weigh, but not much can be done till the plant and material are *in situ*. This cannot possibly be till the end of the year. The river in the meantime tends steadily to the worse, and Tientsin is strictly speaking no longer a sea-port. The three big Shipping Companies are now bringing their stuff up largely by train. Probably as a natural consequence of the bad river the bar is better than it has been for years. It has been the commonest experience this year for vessels drawing 12½ and 13 feet to come right in without ever lightening a package. Increased wharfage is needed at Tangku and is being very rapidly supplied.

#### CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

It is reported that H. E. Chang Pat-shi Consul-General at Singapore, who has been appointed to be Director-General of Railways and the Imperial Banks of the Southern Provinces, has returned to Singapore to raise a capital of two million taels for those undertakings. His Excellency was in Canton last month and it is said that he has examined two routes for the Hankow-Canton railway, one commencing from Pak-hok-tung, in the vicinity of Canton, to Fatshan, thence running along the course of the North River, and then to Lok-cheong, thence to Hunan and Hupeh; and the other commencing from Kai-pau village, in the neighbourhood of Canton, to Fatshan, following the course of the West River as far as Kwangsi, thence to Hunan, going northward to meet the Lu-Han railway. There are to be two branch railways, one from Samsui to Kwangsi and the other from Kwangchow to Fukien.

On the 16th instant the yamen of the Hockshan magistrate was robbed by about two hundred robbers. The Magistrate and the yamen runners dared not make any resistance. The robbers took away about six thousand taels from the Treasury, revenue just collected from the various villages.

On the 10th instant a junk towed by a steam-launch ran on a sunken rock on her way from Canton to Chan-chuen. The junk sank immediately with all the cargo on board, but luckily

all the crew and passengers were saved by the steam-launch and passing boats.

Some native scoundrels have joined the disbanded soldiers to commit robberies and crimes of every description in Chin-chow district. The local authorities are unable to check them and assistance has been applied for to the Canton Government, in reply to which soldiers have been sent thither.

#### HONGKONG.

There were no cases of infectious disease reported in the colony last week.

The appointment of Mr. J. Dyer Ball to be a member of the Board of Examiners is gazetted.

Chief Inspector Mackie has been appointed Acting Deputy Superintendent of Police pending the return of Mr. Badesley.

The appointment of Mr. H. E. Pollock to be Acting Attorney-General during the absence of the Hon. W. M. Goodman is gazetted.

The Hon. W. M. Goodman and family left for England on Saturday by the *Sultej*. Mr. Goodman goes home on six months' leave.

Mr. H. P. Tooker, of the Public Works Department, who has been invalided, left for home on Saturday by the *Sultej*, accompanied by Mrs. Tooker. Mr. Tooker's many friends will unite in wishing him a speedy restoration to health.

The British sailing ship *J. V. Troup*, Capt. Beveridge, which left Hongkong on the 9th ult. bound to Liverpool, arrived at Singapore on the 16th inst., after having been ashore on the north end of Banka Island. She is understood to be uninjured, however.

On Thursday afternoon Mr. Hough (Messrs. Hughes and Hough) offered for sale by public auction at the New Club premises in Queen's Road Central sundry articles of furniture and two English billiard tables. The latter fetched \$520 and \$530.

On Wednesday afternoon Messrs. Hughes and Hough offered for sale by auction the two-masted schooner *Maud*, which had been moved from Yaumati Bay to near Murray Wharf for the purposes of the sale. The vessel is 90 tons dead weight and is built of hardwood. After some spirited bidding she was knocked down to Mr. Robinson, of Manila, for \$1,630.

The Hongkong cricketers left for Shanghai by the *Doric* on Wednesday morning, and will no doubt have what is termed a "good time." From the *Mercury* we learn that two public entertainments have been prepared in their honour, the A.D.C. giving "The Wedding March" and the Smoking Concert Club "Bombastes Furioso" with local applications.

The regulations relating to wharves notified in Government notification No. 341 of 1898 have been cancelled and the regulations previously in force are to continue till the 1st January, 1899. A new set of regulations to come into force on the 1st January next is promulgated, which are the same substantially as those under notification No. 341, except as regards the date of their coming into operation.

Su Tak Loong, of Hoihow, and Chenng Tim Hi, of Chin Chow, boarding house runners, again appeared before Commander Hastings yesterday, the first being charged with decoying 25 coolies into the colony for the purpose of emigration, and both being charged with detaining the coolies by intimidation. First defendant was sentenced to 12 months' hard labour—six for each offence—and the second to six months.

At the Magistracy on 16th Sept. Li Tai, aged 31, of 2, Staunton Street, being a clerk in the employ of the P. and O. Company, was charged with embezzling the sum of \$668 taken possession of by him in the name of his employers. After defendant, who has been allowed out on bail, was first brought before the Magistrate Mr. Master, who conducted the case for the prosecution, said that further defalcations to the extent of \$15,000 had been discovered, and asked that the bail might be increased to \$10,000, which was granted. Mr. Master now said he would not proceed with the charge of forgery and suggested that the second charge might be dealt with summarily. Mr. Ewens, who appeared for defendant, said his client pleaded guilty to the charge of embezzlement. Defendant was sentenced to six months' hard labour.



Tin Plates .....	per box.	6.00 to —
Steel 4 to 4 .....	per cwt. case	5.25 to —
SUNDRIES .....		
Quicksilver .....	per picul	138.00 to —
Window Glass .....	per box	4.55 to —
Kerosene Oil .....	per 10-gal. case	1.98 to —

SHANGHAI, 17th September.—(From Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report.)—There is more doing amongst the natives and quite a fair amount of cargo has changed hands this week, but Importers have participated to a very small extent, being altogether unwilling to countenance the low rates goods are being resold at. Of course so long as the merchants can obtain what they want on their own terms from Native sources, or the Auctions, holders must perforce abide their time, and rest satisfied for the present. That, although the outside markets are not over strong, goods are being cleared and going into consumption. Tientsin is buying American makes, both Drills and Sheetings, but the market for these has been more or less upset lately by some erratic sales from first hands. There are buyers, in fact, for all markets if prices are cheap, though there are still complaints of the dearth of money. Clearances continue moderately satisfactory for most quarters, Korea again distinguishing himself in that respect this week. The Yarn market is still in a very depressed state both here and in the South, so much so that holders in Hongkong have telegraphed to the Bombay Mill Owners Association urging them to curtail production. The reply was that the question would be considered provided the China and Japan Mills co-operate. Reverting to what we wrote last week with reference to the fruits of the Blackburn Mission to China, there is a way by which the Lancashire trade with this Country can be preserved, but it will require very powerful Syndicates to effect the necessary changes, as it will involve a reform of the Manchester trade as at present carried on. The most essential point is for the Manufacturers to combine to do away with middle men, as soon as practicable, and deal direct with the representatives of the China houses, doing their own making up, ticketing, packing, and shipping, etc., and so save the heavy expense that a bale of Shirtings has to incur now before it reaches the hands of the buyer, as is done in the United States and Canada. The trade will then be placed more on a parity with that of the United States, and could successfully compete even with the heavy makes of Drills and Sheetings that are now being fast cut out. All that vast system of rebates and discounts that is despoiling the trade must be done away with, or, so surely as China's former valuable Tea trade has dwindled into insignificance, from very similar cause, will the Lancashire trade with this country gradually pass into other hands. This course, of necessity, will cause Manchester firms joining the Manufacturers' Syndicates or opening houses in China, but what must come is a reduction of the heavy needless expenses at present incurred. Reform is wanted all along the line, not forgetting the monopoly formed by that powerful combination that controls the Steamer service to the East composed entirely of British Companies, that carry alien cargo 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. cheaper than that of their own Country, as an actual statement of facts show, the freights paid from New York for the past 2 or 3 years having varied from 27s. 6d. to 32s. whilst Manchester has been paying 35s. to 42s. 6d. Let Lancashire Manufacturers bestir themselves, and if necessary form themselves into Syndicates so as to be able to put their trade on a more equitable footing with that of rival and competing Countries.

METALS, 19th September.—(From Messrs. Alex. Biefield & Co.'s Report.)—There has been very little regular business done during the past week, owing undoubtedly to the near approach of one of the annual settlement periods, combined with the continued tightness of the money market. Contrary to the practice of former years, neither foreign nor Chinese banks will make advances upon merchandise in Chinese hands, even at high rates of interest. This naturally has a bad effect on the total of trade, though it may have a beneficial result in curtailing that spirit of speculation which has been manifest in the past, to the utter demoralisation of prices at time of settlement. The wharves are full of cargo which cannot be taken delivery of, and there exist no signs which lead to the hope of improvement. The most noticeable feature of the week has been the very large quantities of old metal

materials rejected by Chinese buyers, on arrival here, and thus forced on the market at auction, where they have in many cases been bought up at their own prices by those ordering, these prices being far below home cost price. Although, as we have already said, home dealers are often to blame in not sending out goods up to the specifications called for, this is by no means the sole cause of trouble. We have seen contracts so drawn up that the Chinese had a legitimate loop hole, and when they find they can probably get the goods at auction below the price called for, they naturally avail themselves of the chance. Indeed, this is becoming the rule at present. And it behoves dealers to take greater pains in framing contracts so as to prevent this action. In Metals there has been nothing done beyond the following sales by auction of goods rejected on contract. Prices remain firm at home, Nailrods being 12s., c.i.f., while they are freely offered here at 120s., spot, without finding takers. Auction.—150 piculs Old Chains at Tls. 1.72; 1,500 piculs Horse-shoes at Tls. 1.98 to 2.00; 2,000 piculs Plate Cuttings test pieces at Tls. 2.02; 500 piculs Old Wire Rope at Tls. 0.95; 1,000 piculs do. at Tls. 0.42 to 0.76; 900 piculs Old Telegraph Wire at Tls. 1.72; 800 piculs do. at Tls. 1.61; 2,000 piculs do. at Tls. 1.43 to 1.46; 600 piculs Old Signal Wire at Tls. 1.24 to 1.47; 1,200 piculs Old Cobbles at Tls. 1.73.

#### JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 23rd September.—The market has ruled fairly active, and rates from steady to strong in most stocks, but in some a considerable advance has to be reported, notably in Banks and Kowloon Wharves.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais with a fair demand changed hands at 206, 207, 209, 210, 211, 214, and 215 per cent. prem. for cash, whilst on time sales were made at 217 to 230 for December and 223 to 240 for February. The boom is chiefly attributable to a rise of £2 10s. in the London rate (£49 10s. 0d.); market closes steady at 214. Nationals have found further buyers at \$17. Bank of Chinas unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—The market continues dull and with the exception of a few sales of China Traders at \$63 and Cantons \$130 there is no business reported.

FIRE INSURANCES.—No change or business to report.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have changed hands in fair quantities at \$25, and \$25½, closing steady. Indo-Chinas have been done at \$54½ and \$55, closing steady at latter rate. Douglasses after small sales at \$58½ are on offer at \$58. China Manilas and China Mutuals unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have found buyers at \$154 and \$154½, closing steady at latter rate. Luzons remain neglected at quotation.

MINING.—Punjoms continue steady at \$5.25 with sales. Balmorals have changed hands at 30 cents Ordinary and 50 cents Preferences. Jelebus rule steady at \$4.25 with a small business. Olivers have found buyers at quotation, and Great Easterns have again advanced to \$5.70, after sales at \$5.25, \$5.40, and \$5.50. Raubs with a sudden demand from the South have improved to \$36½ after limited sales at \$34½, \$35, \$35½, and \$36.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have changed hands in small lots at 245 and 246 per cent. premium and at equivalent rates for November and December. Kowloon Wharves with an unsatisfied demand at \$63 gradually crept up to \$67 with sales at that, but with very few, if any, at intermediate rates; market closes quieter at \$67. New Amoy Docks have found buyers and are still enquired for at \$13½ in a small way. Wanchais unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands after further sales at \$65 are in better request and a small demand at \$66 remains unsatisfied. Hotels have ruled very quiet and without business. West Points and Humphreys have changed hands at quotations.

COTTON MILLS.—No business (local) to report except in Hongkongs, which have found buyers and close steady at \$50.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands (old) have found buyers at \$27 whilst new issue continues on offer at \$16. An unsatisfied demand for Wat-

sons at \$12 has sent the market up to \$12.25 without business. Ices have changed hands at \$108 and more are probably obtainable at the rate. Star Ferries and Providents have been negotiated at \$9 and \$9½ respectively.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		[\$392], buyers
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	214 1/2 prem=
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£4	£0 10s. 6d.
Do. deferred...	£1	£5. 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares .....	£8	\$17
Founders Shares...	£1	\$17, sales & buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	£1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$3
China Prov. L. & M. ...	\$10	\$9½, sales
China Sugar .....	\$100	\$154½, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo .....	Tls. 100	Tls. 87½, sellers
Hongkong .....	\$70	\$50, sales
International .....	Tls. 100	Tls. 9½
Lau Kung Mow .....	Tls. 100	Tls. 85
Soychee .....	Tls. 500	Tls. 450
Yahloong .....	Tls. 100	Tls. 60
Dairy Farm Co. ....	\$4	\$5½
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$29½
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$27, sales & sellers
Do. New Issue .....	\$5	\$16, sellers
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$125
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$8½, sales
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Hotel .....	\$50	\$52
Hongkong Ice .....	\$25	\$108, sales
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$67, sellers
Hongkong Rope .....	\$50	\$162, buyers
H. & W. Dock .....	\$125	246 p. ct. prem.=
Insurances—		[\$43.50, buyers
Canton .....	\$50	\$130, sal. & buyers
China Fire .....	\$20	\$95, sellers
China Traders' .....	\$25	\$63, sellers
Hongkong Fire .....	\$50	\$33½, sellers
North-China .....	£25	Tls. 180
Straits .....	\$20	\$8, sellers
Union .....	\$50	\$215, sellers
Yangtze .....	\$60	\$129
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment...	\$50	\$66, buyers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$3.50, sellers
Kowloon Land & B. ...	\$30	\$17½
West Point Building	\$40	\$18, sales
Luzon Sugar .....	\$100	\$12
Mining—		
Charbonnages .....	Fcs. 500	\$10½, sellers
Great E. & C'donian	\$5	\$5.70, buyers
Jelebu .....	\$5	\$1.25, buyers
New Balmoral .....	\$1	30 cts.
Do. Preference .....	\$1	50 cts., sales
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$1, sellers
Do. B. ...	\$2½	\$3.60, sales
Punjom .....	\$5	\$1.25, sellers
Do. Preference .....	\$1	\$1.50
Raubs .....	14s. 10d.	\$30½, buyers
New Amoy Dock .....	\$6½	\$134, buyers
Steamship Coy.—		
China and Manila...	\$50	\$78
China Mutual Ord...	£10	£9 10s., buyers
Do. Preference .....	£10	£5 10s.
Do. Do. ...	£5	£3
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$58, sellers
H. Canton and M. ...	\$15	\$25½, buyers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$55, buyers
Star Ferry .....	\$7½	\$9, sales & sellers
Tebrau Planting Co. ...	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do. ...	\$2	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos .....	\$2	\$1.40, buyers
Do. ...	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$41
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12.25, buyers

J. V. Y. VERNON, broker.

SHANGHAI, 19th September.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—A moderate business has been done this week, with but little change in prices. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Business has been confined to a sale at 207 per cent. premium, for cash. National Bank of China.—Founders' shares were placed at \$10, and Ordinary shares at \$17. Insurance.—Marine and Fire, no business reported. Shipping.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat shares are wanted. Indo-China S. N. shares changed hands at Tls. 40 cash and Tls. 42.50 for the 28th February. China Mutual S. N. Ordinary shares were sold at Tls. 23. Sugar Companies.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares are wanted at Tls. 39.50 for the 30th current. China Sugar Refining shares were placed for the 30th current at \$157. Luzon Sugar shares are wanted at \$41. Mining.—Raub Australian Gold Mining shares were sold at \$35, and are wanted. Docks,

Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co., after sales at Tls. 170 cum, and 158 ex div., were forced off at Tls. 153, and have since recovered to Tls. 155. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares changed hands at Tls. 115. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were sold at Tls. 82 and Tls. 80. There are buyers at the latter rate. Industrial.—Shanghai Gas shares were placed at Tls. 210. International Cotton Mill shares were placed at Tls. 90 for cash and for delivery on the 30th September, and there are sellers at the same price. Shanghai Ice shares were sold at Tls. 90. Shanghai Rice Mill shares at Tls. 25. China Flour Mill shares at Tls. 51, and American Cigarette shares at Tls. 75 for delivery on the 31st December. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Business was done in Taku Tug and Lighter shares at Tls. 75, and in Shanghai Cargo Boat shares at Tls. 169. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco shares have been changing hands at declining rates, Tls. 70 to Tls. 68 for the 30th September, cum dividend, recovering to Tls. 69 cash, Tls. 71 for December, Tls. 72 for February, and \$74 for March, all ex dividend. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares have been rather quiet, business being confined to cash sales at Tls. 133 and Tls. 130 cash and Tls. 160 for the 31st December. Central Stores were placed at \$10.25, and are wanted. Loans.—Chinese Imperial Government E Loan Bonds were placed at Tls. 250, and Shanghai-Sumatra 8 per cent. Debentures at Tls. 100.

## EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 23rd September.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 7/8
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.46
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.50
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.99
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	48 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	146
Bank, on demand	146 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	146
Bank, on demand	146 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	73 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	4 1/2 % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	10.08
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	53.75

## TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 19th September (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—Since last writing nothing has occurred to alter the state of our homeward freight market with the exception of a slight drop in rates to New York, which move has not tended to bring any more cargo forward, but enabled the first steamer that reduced to book what was actually ready for shipment. The fact of the matter is the management of steamers put on the New York berth seems to us to be most erratic, and shippers can never rely upon any date of loading; surely this is not as it should be, as there is no doubt that this direction for loading must be a valuable one, or there would not be the competition that now exists. For the amount of produce that must go forward just at this time of year, why cannot tonnage be arranged in some way or another to arrive here say every ten days instead of what is being done now, "playing spy." The *Macduff* arrived here on the 14th inst. and opened at a 30s. rate; the same day 27s. 6d. is quoted for the *Indravelli*; what was the result? Naturally the latter steamer took all that was offering, although arriving in port three days later, so the former apparently must wait. It is an almost impossibility for owners to work their vessels from the other side of the world, and the sooner they realize the importance of placing more confidence in their local agents the better for the ship and all concerned. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.;

New York via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Baltimore via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Königsberg via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s. Above rates are subject to a deferred rebate, as per Conference circular. Havre, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net; Genoa, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net. 35s. per ton of 20 cwt. net for above three ports. New York, by sail, 19s. nominal. New York via Pacific, 14 gold cents per lb. tea, 6 cents per lb. silk, \$10 per ton straw-braid. New York via Suez, 27s. 6d. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 27s. 6d. for tea. Boston, 35s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 40s. for tea. Philadelphia, 35s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 40s. for tea. Coast rates.—Mojito to Shanghai \$1.40 per ton coal, nominal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.40 per ton coal, nominal; Newchwang to Kobe little doing; Newchwang to Swatow little doing; Newchwang to Canton little doing; Wuhu to Canton closed.

## VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—*Benlary* (str.), *Alesia* (str.), *Manila* (str.), *Ballaarat* (str.), *Socotra* (str.), *Wakasa Maru* (str.), *Indus* (str.).  
FOR BREMEN.—*Darmstadt* (str.).  
FOR MARSEILLES.—*Wakasa Maru* (str.), *Indus* (str.).  
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—*Belgie* (str.).  
FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).  
FOR VICTORIA, B. C.—*Victoria* (str.).  
FOR TACOMA.—*Victoria* (str.).  
FOR NEW YORK.—*Indravelli* (str.), *Prince Arthur*, *Macduff* (str.), *Governor Robie*, *Adolph Orbig*, *Paul Revere*, *Josephus*, *Mary R. Cushing*.  
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Silesia* (str.), *Wittenberg* (str.), *Nurnberg* (str.).  
FOR AUSTRALIA.—*Taiyuen* (str.), *Tsinan* (str.).  
FOR SEATTLE.—*Riojun Maru* (str.).

## SHIPPING.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

## HONGKONG.

September—  
ARRIVALS.  
15, *Suevia*, German str., from Foochow.  
15, *Bygdo*, Norwegian str., from Philippines.  
15, *Hitachi Maru*, Jap. str., from Kobe.  
15, *Frejr*, Danish str., from Pakhoi.  
15, *Hong Leong*, British str., from Singapore.  
15, *Woosung*, British str., from Shanghai.  
16, *Hermes*, Norwegian str., from Hongay.  
17, *Proponis*, British str., from Singapore.  
17, *Chovsang*, British str., from Canton.  
17, *Brindisi*, British str., from Bombay.  
17, *Hailan*, French str., from Pakhoi.  
17, *Kwanglee*, Chinese str., from Canton.  
18, *Hanoi*, French str., from Haiphong.  
18, *Keongwai*, British str., from Bangkok.  
18, *Kiangnan*, Chinese str., from Amoy.  
18, *Lyeemoon*, German str., from Shanghai.  
18, *San Joaquin*, Amr. str., from Manila.  
18, *Thales*, British str., from Coast Ports.  
18, *Kwoiyang*, British str., from Canton.  
18, *Woosung*, British str., from Canton.  
18, *Meefoo*, Chinese str., from Shanghai.  
18, *Knight Templar*, Brit. str., from Calcutta.  
19, *Dardanus*, British str., from Foochow.  
19, *Holstein*, British str., from Saigon.  
19, *Seitoku Maru*, Jap. str., from Tamsui.  
19, *Petrol*, Amr. g-bt., from Manila.  
19, *Konauro Maru*, Jap. str., from Moji.  
19, *Pigmy*, British g-bt., from Manila.  
19, *Esmeralda*, British str., from Manila.  
19, *Ningpo*, British str., from Singapore.  
19, *Ulysses*, British str., from Liverpool.  
19, *Windsor Castle*, Brit. bk., from Gountalo.  
20, *Progres*, German str., from Newchwang.  
20, *Sullberg*, German str., from Newchwang.  
20, *Kanagawa Maru*, Japanese str., from Southampton.  
20, *Bellerophon*, British str., from Liverpool.  
20, *Nurnberg*, German str., from Hamburg.  
20, *Circassian Prince*, Brit. str., from Bangkok.  
20, *Ebani*, British str., from Mororan.  
20, *Kashing*, British str., from Hongay.  
21, *Hermes*, Norwegian str., from Canton.  
21, *Chefoo*, British str., from Canton.

21, *Shini Maru*, Jap. str., from Saigon.  
21, *Activ*, Danish str., from Manila.  
21, *Hikoson Maru*, Jap. str., from K'notzu.  
21, *Canton*, British str., from Shanghai.  
21, *Mongkut*, British str., from Manila.  
21, *Haimun*, British str., from Tamsui.  
21, *Blenheim*, British cruiser, from a cruise.  
21, *Else*, German str., from Bangkok.  
21, *Hongkong*, French str., from Haiphong.  
21, *Petrarch*, German str., from Rangoon.  
21, *Triumph*, German str., from Pakhoi.  
21, *Darmstadt*, Ger. str., from Bremerhaven.  
22, *Lyeemoon*, German str., from Canton.  
22, *Haitan*, British str., from Coast Ports.  
22, *Socotra*, British str., from Yokohama.  
22, *Silesia*, German str., from Moji.  
22, *John Sanderson*, Brit. str., from N. York.  
22, *Indus*, French str., from Shanghai.  
22, *Machew*, British str., from Saigon.  
22, *Pakhoi*, British str., from Bangkok.  
22, *Meefoo*, Chinese str., from Canton.  
22, *Progress*, German str., from Canton.  
22, *Sullberg*, German str., from Canton.  
23, *Taiwan*, British str., from Shanghai.  
23, *Flintshire*, British str., from London.  
23, *Kwangping*, Chinese str., from Chefoo.  
23, *Yamashiro Maru*, Jap. str., from M'bourne.  
23, *Morgan City*, Amr. str., from Manila.  
23, *Rio*, German str., from Saigon.  
23, *Sendai Maru*, Jap. str., from Amoy.

## September— DEPARTURES.

17, *Muskoka*, British bark, for New York.  
17, *Prosper*, Norw. str., for Port Wallut.  
17, *Coromandel*, British str., for Shanghai.  
17, *Hong Leong*, British str., for Amoy.  
17, *Sutlej*, British str., for Europe.  
17, *Tacoma*, British str., for Tacoma.  
18, *Canton*, British str., for Shanghai.  
18, *Decima*, German str., for Saigon.  
18, *Frejr*, Danish str., for Hoihow.  
18, *Hailoong*, British str., for Swatow.  
18, *Oanfa*, British str., for Shanghai.  
18, *Quarta*, German str., for Samarang.  
18, *Rosetta*, British str., for Yokohama.  
18, *Suevia*, German str., for Havre.  
19, *Chovsang*, British str., for Swatow.  
19, *Chunsang*, British str., for Saigon.  
19, *Kwanglee*, Chinese str., for Shanghai.  
19, *Lyeemoon*, German str., for Canton.  
19, *Taiwan Maru*, Jap. str., for Kobe.  
19, *Woosung*, British str., for Swatow.  
19, *Yuensang*, British str., for Manila.  
20, *Dardanus*, British str., for Manila.  
20, *Meefoo*, Chinese str., for Canton.  
20, *Kiangnan*, Chinese str., for Swatow.  
20, *Ask*, Danish str., for Vladivostock.  
20, *Hailan*, French str., for Hoihow.  
20, *State of Maine*, American ship, for Manila.  
20, *Meunuir*, British str., for Kobe.  
20, *Wongkoi*, British str., for Swatow.  
20, *Blenheim*, British cruiser, for a cruise.  
20, *Celtic Bard*, British ship, for Royal Road.  
20, *Kashing*, British str., for Shanghai.  
20, *Ningpo*, British str., for P. Arthur.  
20, *Onsang*, British str., for Singapore.  
20, *Progress*, German str., for Canton.  
20, *Sullberg*, German str., for Canton.  
20, *Thales*, British str., for Swatow.  
21, *Doric*, British str., for San Francisco.  
21, *Canton*, British str., for Canton.  
21, *Dante*, German str., for Saigon.  
21, *Hanoi*, French str., for Hoihow.  
21, *Hermes*, Norw. str., for Hongay.  
21, *Phoenix*, Norw. str., for Port Wallut.  
21, *San Joaquin*, Amr. str., for Manila.  
21, *Ulysses*, British str., for Shanghai.  
21, *Challenger*, Amr. ship, for Baltimore.  
22, *Marie Jebson*, German str., for Haiphong.  
22, *Chefoo*, British str., for Amoy.  
22, *Haimun*, British str., for Swatow.  
22, *Kanagawa Maru*, Jap. str., for Kobe.  
22, *Kwoiyang*, British str., for Swatow.  
22, *Petrarch*, German str., for Kobe.  
22, *Seitoku Maru*, Jap. str., for Swatow.  
22, *Renie Rickmers*, Ger. ship, for Bangkok.  
23, *Hohenzollern*, German str., for Y'hama.  
23, *Darmstadt*, German str., for Shanghai.  
23, *Esmeralda*, British str., for Manila.  
23, *Fukui Maru*, Jap. str., for Auping.  
23, *Lyeemoon*, German str., for Shanghai.  
23, *Meefoo*, Chinese str., for Shanghai.  
23, *Nurnberg*, German str., for Yokohama.  
23, *Picciola*, German str., for Iloilo.  
23, *Taiwan*, British str., for Canton.

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